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Polish church criticizes riot police

The Polish bishops have criticized the Polish Government's handling of violent demonstrations on Monday. They also said they expected substantial concessions from the state authorities on the revival of Solidarity, and the ending of martial law. They made it clear that the police handling of the demonstrations overshadowed the authorities' recent concessions.

Back page

Axe man pelts siege police

A man armed with axe who barricaded himself in a loft in a house in St Ann's, Nottingham, was defying police last night. He pelted them with tiles thrown through a hole in the roof.

ETA murder A-plant chief

Opening war on Basques cooperating with Madrid, ETA gunmen murdered the chief engineer of a Bilbao nuclear plant on the day it was being signed over to regional authorities. The Cabinet went into emergency session.

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Markets trade nervously

Financial markets reacted nervously yesterday to the news of British losses in the South Atlantic. The pound fell sharply against continental currencies, but finished stronger against the dollar. The stock market made a recovery after early losses.

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New rules on police taping

New rules covering tape recording of police interviews and wider powers to stop and search will be included in a Police Bill being prepared by the Government for introduction in the autumn.

Page 5

Israeli bullets kill more

Israel's chief of staff defends the use by his troops of live ammunition against demonstrators in the occupied territories. Critics wonder why bullets fired at legs are killing so many.

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Sporting rights

Local hunt supporters believe that South Glamorgan County Council could not enforce any ban on foxhounds as all rural land owned by the council is rented to farmers to whom sporting rights are assigned.

Page 6

Opera stopped

The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, has cancelled tomorrow's performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* because of a wage dispute with members of the chorus. Refunds will be made to ticket holders.

Polling today

Voters go to the polls in 183 local authorities in England and Scotland today. Party issues are likely to be overshadowed by the Falklands crisis.

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Namibia blow

Africa's front-line states reject as sterile the West's Namibia proposals and demand a Geneva-type conference under the UN.

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Refugee rumpus

Factional fighting between Vietnam refugees in their Hongkong camp has forced 1,000 from the south to quit and squat in empty barracks.

Page 8

Boycott century

Geoffrey Boycott scored 138 for Yorkshire against Northamptonshire on the opening day of the county cricket championship. It was the 126th first-class century of his career.

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Leader page 13
Letters: In defence, from Lord Hill-Norton, and the Duke of Buccleuch; diplomacy, from Professor Bernard Crick, and others.

Leading articles: The Falklands; Dock Labour Board scheme.

Features, page 12

Bernard Levin returns to the case of two persecuted Soviet miners; Ronald Butt on how the Falklands may affect today's council elections.

Texas Henry Fairlie looks at this larger-than-life American state in a two-page Special Report.

Obituary, page 14

Lord Janner, Mr W O Haines.

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Pym keeps the door open on US-Peru ceasefire proposals

• The latest American-Peruvian proposals to end the Falklands crisis, containing suggestions for an early ceasefire and the prompt withdrawal of Argentine troops, were the most helpful basis for finding a settlement, Mr Francis Pym told the Commons yesterday. The Foreign Secretary said he was aware of reports that the Argentine fleet, apart from two submarines, was outside the 200-mile exclusion zone heading back to port, but could not confirm them.

• The return to a mood of diplomacy

By Philip Webster, Political Correspondent

Falklands crisis

The search for peace at the UN and in Peru was one of the vital ingredients of the revived American-Peruvian proposals for settling the Falklands crisis.

Saying that he believed these proposals provided the most helpful basis for achieving a settlement, Mr Pym, who has sent a "constructive contribution" to Mr Haig, United States Secretary of State, late on Tuesday night, said he would be in touch with him again late last night. He left many MPs with the impression that he regards Mr Haig as being very much back in the negotiating business, and his emphasis that an early ceasefire was at the heart of the latest initiative was not lost on them.

Mr Pym pleased the Opposition benches, and particularly Mr Denis Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary, with what they regarded as his positive response to the ideas put forward by Señor Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, although Mr Pym stressed that he regarded the Haig proposals as offering the best hope of progress.

He said there were many points of similarity between the secretary-general's thinking and the Haig-Peruvian plan, and that his ideas seemed certain to be reflected in the basis of any solution.

Mr Healey said he regarded that as much more forthcoming than anything the Government had said so far. He asked that the Government should take the lead in responding to the UN ideas and not hide behind a possible refusal of the

Argentine government to respond, as was the case with the earlier Haig proposals. The Foreign Secretary confirmed that he would be responding to Señor Pérez de Cuellar. It was explained in government quarters later that the response would probably be sent today.

The Government's cautious hopes of the Peruvian plan rest on that country's close relationship with Argentina. Mr Pym said that Mr Haig was in touch with Peru, which was a friend of Argentina and that might be a way of negotiating.

Throughout the exchanges, Mr Pym stressed his desire to reach a peaceful settlement and appeared to give no encouragement to those Conservative arguing for stepping up military action.

He told Mr Michael Nott, Conservative MP for Havering, Romford, who had suggested that most effective negotiations would be like "a military one, that he would infinitely prefer that the troops left on

Although it was stressed later that Mr Pym was referring to the idea as no more than an option at present some MPs, notably Dr Owen, regarded his reply as significant.

Asked by Dr David Owen, parliamentary leader of the Social Democratic Party, positively to welcome the concept of a United Nations trusteeship council, Mr Pym replied: "The Government has an open mind about what might be the ultimate solution. Most certainly the United Nations trusteeship concept is one of those possibilities. It might in the end prove to be highly suitable."

Mr Pym also slightly lifted the veil over the Government's long-term intentions towards the Falklands.

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Ministers also agreed that Mr Pym should speak positively to the Commons about the Government's willingness to work for a ceasefire, but that that should be dependent on a commitment by the Argentine to withdraw her forces.

The full Cabinet was convened after the inner group, with the Prime Minister in the chair, agreed that all their colleagues should be allowed the chance of a full reappraisal of the Government's military and diplomatic stance. In the event, the Cabinet spent most of their one hour and fifty minute session considering how their efforts to find a diplomatic solution could best be advanced.

They agreed that world-wide support for Britain as the victim of aggression had been weakened by the fighting in the South Atlantic and Washington was working

to diminish further, and that that made the quest for a diplomatic success (as Mr Pym later told the Commons) all the more urgent.

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The Labour Shadow Cabinet, meeting at the same time, came to a similar conclusion — that they should sustain the Government, but press ministers to agree to a ceasefire provided Argentina would commit herself to withdrawal. No member of the Shadow Cabinet argued against that proviso.

The Opposition claimed last night to have detected a significant softening of the Government's position, which ministers, however, denied. In the Commons Mr Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, adopted with approval a statement by Mr Denis Healey, Labour deputy leader, who had said that Britain should not agree to a ceasefire without being clear that "we had a negotiation process which would get the Argentines off the islands".

Mr Healey ended with gratification, telling Mr Pym that this was "an important distinction from the demand that a ceasefire cannot take place until Argentine forces have left".

The military junta tonight had still not officially announced that Argentina had sunk the British destroyer Sheffield, though full accounts were published by Telam, the official news agency.

It appears that the pilot who fired the Exocet missile from a French-built Super-Etendard aircraft turned back to base before his missile struck home. According to military spokesmen, he fired at an object that showed up as a large blip on the radar screen, which could have been one of the carriers.

According to Clarín, the newspaper closest to the military, the missile was fired about 23 miles from the target. It said a Mirage also fired an unidentified missile at an object that showed up as a large blip on the radar screen, which could have been one of the carriers.

According to the newspaper, Argentina has 12 Etendards, but reports reaching United States sources here say they have only five, which were delivered last year.

The war continues to inflict serious harm on the

islands under peaceful means than by driven out by force.

When Mr Jonathan Aitken, Tory MP for Thanet, East, told him to be cautious about negotiating terms for a ceasefire until the Argentines had shown by their deeds they were withdrawing their troops, Mr Pym replied:

"Yes, I am showing appropriate caution, but I will also show appropriate enthusiasm."

And MPs detected no enthusiasm from Mr Pym to a suggestion from the Tory benches that airfields on the Argentine mainland should be bombed. He said: "Naturally military considerations and aspects are being thought about in greater depth, and possible plans are being prepared. That is right because we have a task force in the South Atlantic." And he added "Let us at the moment concentrate our minds on trying to achieve a peaceful settlement."

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The war continues to inflict serious harm on the



Half mast at Sheffield cenotaph over the destroyer's loss.

Sombre mood in Commons

Nott hints at pause in action

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, gave a strong indication in the Commons yesterday that British forces off the Falkland Islands were planning no attacking action against the Argentines over the next few days. He told MPs that if the Argentine forces in the next few days did not in any way challenge our ships and our men and threaten them, and if they ceased coming into the total exclusion zone, then no casualties need arise.

Mr Nott also denied American reports that a naval battle was now going on around the Falklands. He had no knowledge of any such battle, he said, and the government had no reports of one. Although he could not be sure because of periodic communications difficulties, he had checked recently on this point and was aware of the reports from American sources.

There had been accompanying vessels in the immediate area which picked up those who had abandoned ship, he said. Describing the news as grave and tragic, the Secretary of State firmly told the House that the task force was continuing its operations from American sources.

At about 7pm London time the order was given to abandon ship. Ships of the task force picked up survivors and the ship and the other hitting her amidships. The explosion that followed caused a major fire and, although attempts were made to extinguish it for nearly four hours with the assistance of other fire fighting teams in the area, it spread out of control.

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As Mr Nott gave the Commons the first full details of the attack on HMS Sheffield, it was soon clear that the mood of MPs had changed remarkably from the near panic reaction of the

continued on back page, col 1

US tries desperately to halt fighting

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, May 5

The United States was today engaged in what diplomatic sources described as "frenetic activity" in an attempt to halt the fighting between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands.

However, despite the numerous diplomatic initiatives which are now under way and renewed American pleas for a quick end to hostilities, there were growing fears in Washington that the undeclared war would become more intense in the wake of the sinking of the General Belgrano and the Peruvian weekend.

Press speculation here that Mr Haig had proposed a 48-hour ceasefire was greeted with a firm "no comment" by State Department spokesman. The British said they could not accept a ceasefire which left the Argentines in control of the islands.

Ministers also agreed that Mr Pym should speak positively to the Commons about the Government's willingness to work for a ceasefire, but that that should be dependent on a commitment by the Argentine to withdraw her forces.

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FALKLANDS CRISIS / 1

The search for peace

Opinion at UN ebbs away from Britain

From Zoriana Pysarowsky, New York, May 5

Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations Secretary-General, was today awaiting replies to his proposed framework for a peaceful settlement to the Falklands conflict from both Britain and Argentina. He hoped that Britain and Argentina would be in a position to give their replies today, but United Nations officials said no specific deadline had been set.

The mood of the Security Council, which had been favourably disposed toward Britain and its wishes, now appears to have shifted and Britain will have to work hard to persuade the council not to take any action that could interfere with its strategy of parallel military, economic and diplomatic pressure on Argentina.

Diplomatic sources said the Secretary-General's initiative was largely intended to fill the vacuum left by the failure of the peace mission undertaken by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State.

During his recent talks with Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister,

Why Peru is trying again

Lima, May 5.—Peru, a trusted friend of Argentina, has stepped up its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Falklands conflict.

From the outset, the Government of President Fernando Belaúnde Terry expressed firm support for Argentina's claims to sovereignty over the islands. But, concerned that the dispute threatened peace not only in South America but in the world, it called repeatedly for an end to hostilities.

Peru's first initiative—calling for a 72-hour truce—founded when Britain demanded that Argentine forces withdraw first from the Falklands. After the failure of the mediation effort by Mr Alexander Haig, United States Secretary of State, and the subsequent intensification of fighting, Lima sought a second opportunity to play a peacemaking role.

Foreign Ministry sources said that the Government action was prompted by the American declaration last Friday of open support for Britain in a move described by the influential pro-Government weekly *Caretas*, as "Reagan's betrayal".

"Communications between Argentina and the United States were broken, so we offered our help to try to keep conversations alive," a Peruvian official said, according to the sources. Dr Javier Arias Stella, the Peruvian Foreign Minister, telephoned the State Department on Saturday, to urge the Reagan Administration to press Britain to stop hostilities.

Over the weekend, a seven-point peace formula emerged from conversations between Mr Haig and President Belaúnde. Argentina was reported to be studying the plan when news broke of the torpedoing of the cruiser General Belgrano. Dr Arias Stella said the incident left Argentina no alternative but to reject the peace proposals.

Venezuela said to be giving spare parts aid

Washington, May 5.—Venezuela, considered one of Argentina's strongest supporters in its Falkland Islands dispute with Britain, is reported to be providing Argentina with spare parts for Mirage fighter-bombers and Canberra light bombers, US intelligence sources said today.

The sources, who asked to remain anonymous, also said that President Luis Herrera Campíns of Venezuela had ordered the Venezuelan air force to prepare for unspecified flight operations, but they did not elaborate.

The report that Venezuela is helping Argentina is the first indication of material aid from other Latin American countries.

Venezuelan hostility to the British stems from a long-standing claim to territory in Guyana.



President Belaúnde: A friend of both sides.

dictional friend of both the United States and Argentina, he also felt qualified to play a statesman's role in the dispute, they said.

But the sources said that there was increasing pressure from Peru's strongly nationalistic armed forces for the Government to take a more resolutely pro-Argentine line. General Luis Cisneros Vizcarraga, the War Minister, is known as "the Gaucho", because of his military training in Argentina. He has repeatedly said that the Peruvian armed forces are ready to give logistical support to Argentina.

However, he later indicated that the United States Peruvian initiative was still viable, and that Peru would continue its efforts for peace. Yesterday, Peru formally protested to Britain over the sinking of the cruiser.

Speaking after a visit to Lima by two envoys of President Galtieri, Dr Arias Stella said that Peru was awaiting further reaction from Argentina. The envoys returned to Buenos Aires with "a message and some ideas and suggestions" from President Belaúnde to General Galtieri.

"We must now wait for the reaction, particularly of Argentina, to what they believe could be better avenues to peace," Dr Arias Stella said. He added: "If they consider that Peru could be an avenue, then we will walk it with the greatest spirit of solidarity for the cause of Argentina and of peace."

Political sources said that Peru's diplomatic initiatives were prompted partly by President Belaúnde's fervent desire to see peace restored in the continent. A tra-

69 Labour MPs call for truce

By George Clark

yesterday's *Evening Standard* Order Paper contained a list of 69 Labour MPs and three nationalists who have signed the motion calling for an immediate truce in the Falklands dispute. It was tabled by Dame Judith Hart, chairman of the Labour Party, and its main sponsors include Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn (Bristol, South East), Miss Joanne Maynard (Sheffield, Brightside) and Mr Frank Allard (Salford, East), who are members of the party executive.

The motion states: "That this House, deeply concerned at the escalation of conflict and loss of life in the region of the Falkland Islands, fearing that there are grave dangers of further escalation involving other countries, recognizing that a negotiated solution will be required, believing that the United Nations must be fully in-

volved in this, urges that there should now be an immediate truce in the war before more lives are lost, and that her Majesty's Government should fully commit itself to genuine peaceful negotiation".

The other signatories are: Mr Alexander Frensen (Brent, North), Mr Norman Tebbit (Brentford, West), Mr David Ennals (Norwich, North), Mr Robert Cray (Kingston), Mr Russell Hadden, Mr Alfred Dubs (Wandsworth, West), Mr Maurice Miller (East Kilbride), Mr Stoker Newington, Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East), Mr Stanley Thorne (Oldham, East), Mr John Lafferty (Glasgow, Kelvin Grove), Mr John Lafferty (Birkenhead) and Mr Ian Loftham (Luton).

Mr David Winnick (Watson, North), Mr Stuart Broad (Brent, North), Mr David Marshall (Glasgow, South), Mr Ian Mikardo (Stirlingshire, West), Mr Ian Bow, Mr Harry Cowan (Newcastle upon Tyne Central), Mrs Sheila Scott (South Shields), Mr Laurence Pavitt (Brent, South-West), Mr Alan Williams (Swindon, West), Mr Raymond Ellis (Derbyshire, North), Mr Peter Field (Nuneaton), Mr Dennis Skinner (Barking), Miss Jo Richardson (Barking).

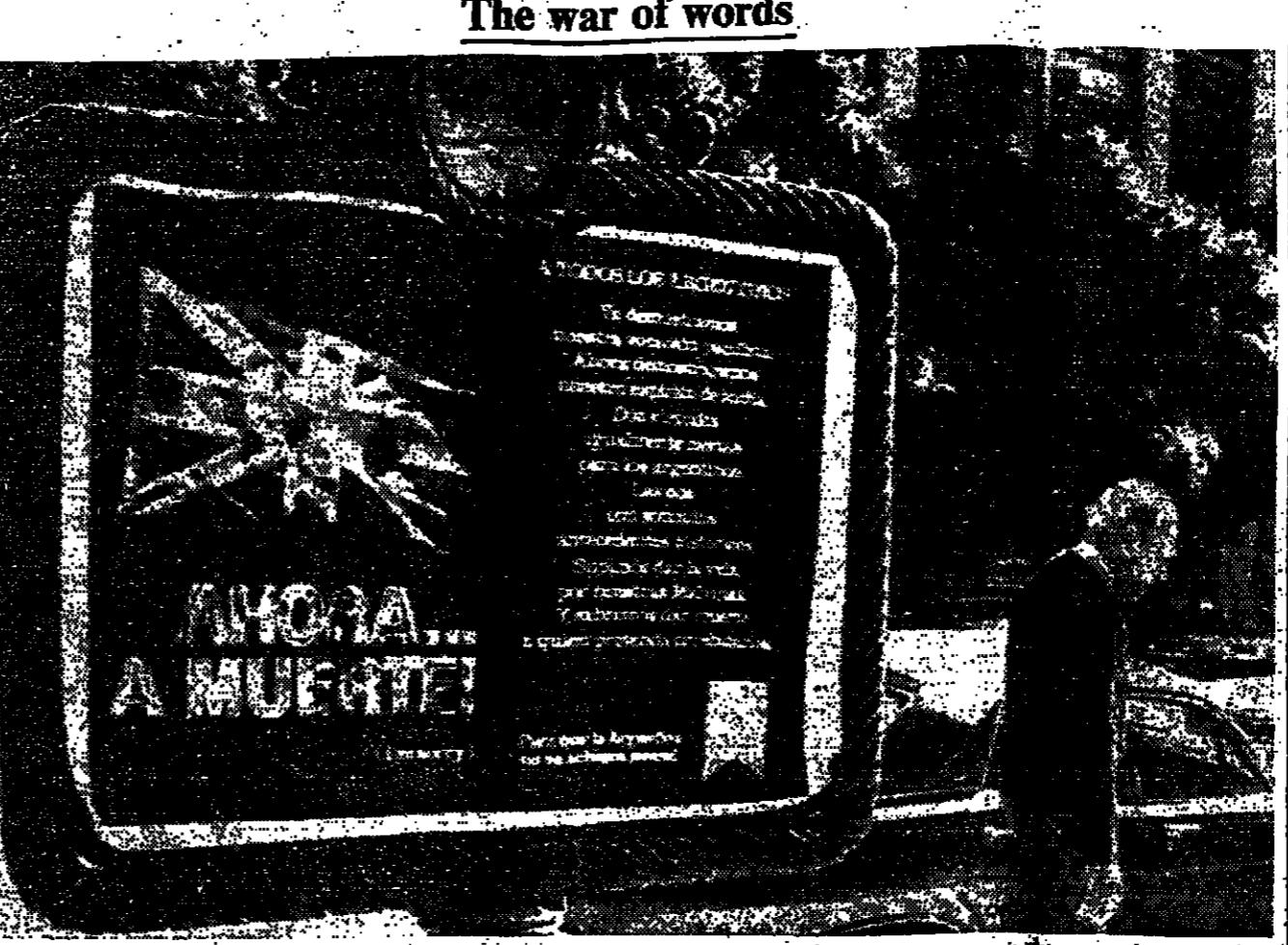
Three nationalists who signed were: Mr Gordon Wilson (Clydebank), Mr Paul Flynn (Clydebank), and Mr Dalgarno Thomas (Paisley, North).

Mr Roy Lockett, union deputy general secretary, read a telegram sent to the union by the Ministry of Defence requesting that the "blackout" be lifted. The union replied that it would agree if negotiations on 26 redundancies in the film unit at the COI could be reopened.

No further talks have been held and union officials said yesterday that they were prepared to continue the "blackout" until new talks or independent arbitration into the dispute were agreed.

In an interview with *Le Monde*, Señor Rodriguez, who is visiting Paris, said that Cuban-American relations could hardly return to normality before a negotiated solution of conflicts in Central America had been achieved.

He said Cuba was prepared to help Argentina with every means but gave no further details UPL



"Now... to the Death!" says the patriotic poster in a Buenos Aires street.

Buenos Aires: Action speaks louder

By Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires, May 5

A blood-spattered bullet-ridden Union flag appeared on municipal billboards throughout Buenos Aires today in belligerent response to the sinking of the General Belgrano, Argentina's second biggest warship.

"Now... to the death!" the posters declared, reflecting the government's clear determination to commit everything to keeping the flaming red and white Argentine flag flying in Port Stanley.

To all Argentines, the message began: "We have already shown our peaceful disposition and now we will show our fighting spirit, no equally true virtues for Argentina. We gave our lives for the Malvinas and we will kill whoever tries to take them away."

The posters are the latest development in an increasingly intensive propaganda campaign. All government communiques are now

flashed immediately onto television screens, interrupting whatever dubbed Argentine movie or dreadful local comedy might be on the air.

The message is preceded by a burst of the national anthem and then read by a breathless announcer in the manner of an overexcited football commentator. As it is read viewers are shown an emblem consisting of a flaming torch, crossed swords, a set of wings and an anchor.

The authorities have set up a bank of television sets in the Sheraton Hotel, the main base for several hundred foreign correspondents, as well as a teletypewriter supplying the full service of Telen, the official news agency.

Occasionally Captain Enrique de León, the main military spokesman, will appear with a few titbits of gossip or unconfirmed reports of another Argentine

triumph. The local newspapers gratefully seize whatever crumbs of information he supplies, presenting them in the next day's issue as incontrovertible facts.

However, today's newspapers carried extensive accounts of the sinking of the Sheffield but not one, not even the tabloids, presented the disaster in any way as a great victory or as an act of retribution for the sinking of the Belgrano.

It seems the authorities have set up the press should be restrained from their inclination to launch a campaign of jingoism.

"London admits sinking of powerful destroyer," La Nación reported in a straight, uncoloured lead story.

"English destroyer Sheffield sank at the Malvinas," La Prensa said in an almost identical account.

Neither made more than a passing reference to the

Belgrano, after filling yesterday's front pages with stories reporting merely that most of the crew had been rescued and giving a telephone number of the naval base of Puerto Belgrano for worried relatives.

The latest string of propaganda stories appeared in today's newspapers telling of a glorious encounter with two British fighter aircraft by Lieutenant Eduardo Perón over the Falklands.

Perón, over the Falklands on Saturday,

The account said "the two planes exchanged gunfire and after they had separated, the plane piloted by Perón was damaged and the Argentine informed his chief that it was going to haul out. He was automatically ejected and safely parachuted to sea, saving his own life and a few moments later, the enemy Harrier plunged beneath the waves."

Fighting puts strain on Bonn and Paris

By Our Foreign Staff

West Germany is deeply concerned that EEC and Nato solidarity with Britain will be badly strained if fighting continues over the Falklands.

The Cabinet yesterday repeated its urgent appeal to both sides to use all opportunities to seek a peaceful solution, and again suggested a ceasefire. "Further bloodshed must be avoided," Herr Klaus Bölling, the government spokesman, said.

He would say no more about yesterday's deliberations on the Falklands, which dominated the Cabinet session. It was understood, however, that the Germans favour a disengagement of the two navies, with each withdrawing out of reach of the others' weapons and aircraft.

The West Germans feel deeply that the West's credibility in the world is at stake. Civilized governments and public opinion all over the world will be shocked and disappointed at the West's inability to settle conflicts peacefully. They will doubtless still at crisis management under real crisis conditions", one well-informed source said.

Bonn's loyalty seems to have been, particularly strained by an apparently misleading impression given by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to Herr Helmut Schmidt about her intentions. In a telephone conversation last week, the Prime Minister is understood to have convinced the Chancellor that she was seeking a peaceful solution.

Herr Willy Brandt, Chairman of the Social Democrat Party and a Government member, expressed what may be thinking when he said: "A quarrel about points of international law, and in particular difficulties at home do not justify any warlike adventures which endanger world peace."

Paris: The escalation of the war in the South Atlantic is causing the French Government deep concern. Its continuation, with further loss of life, would place it in an embarrassing position in relation to a public opinion and the press, which are showing less and less understanding of Britain's alleged intransigence. This is the meaning of the statement issued after yesterday's Cabinet meeting, which called for "an immediate halt to hostilities".

The French Government is not weakening on the matter of principle involved; it would stand by Britain, as it has from the start. President Mitterrand told a press conference at Issy, in the Corrèze. But he made it clear that there must now be a return to the strict application of the United Nations Security Council resolution, and that a separation of the military forces facing one another was imperative.

His spokesman, before he joined the public relations department in the Defence Ministry two years ago, was assistant secretary in charge of Division 14, the ministry's recruitment and pay section. His current post is normally well out of the public limelight except when he meets reporters or accompanies the Defence Secretary outside Whitehall.

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But now that his words are being recorded for television viewers he has to be more direct and instantly comprehensible. He has a well-tuned sense of humour and he probably finds these constraints little unnatural. Certainly his colleagues in the ministry of defence are impressed by his intellect and his willingness not to take himself too seriously.

He said both countries should respect the Security Council resolution, which called on Argentina to withdraw its troops from the Falklands.

Madrid: Political leaders and newspapers headlines expressed shock and outrage at the recent escalation of the war. The *Independent* Dario Diéguez headlined its front-page story: "Mass Murder on the High Seas".

There is a growing feeling among political leaders that Spain is being ambivalent about its position in the Falklands dispute. The Government has issued a statement condemning Britain for escalating the war, but has not taken sides, offering only to mediate.

Rome: The Pope called for prayers for the victims of the Falklands Islands conflict and said he hoped that Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, United Nations Secretary-General, might bring peace between Britain and Argentina.

São Paulo: Brazilian public opinion is quickly coming to the conclusion that the price being paid by Britain and Argentina over the Falklands is too high. Brazil supports the Irish call for a meeting of the Security Council, and is to participate in a meeting of Latin-American members of the United Nations, called for by Argentina.

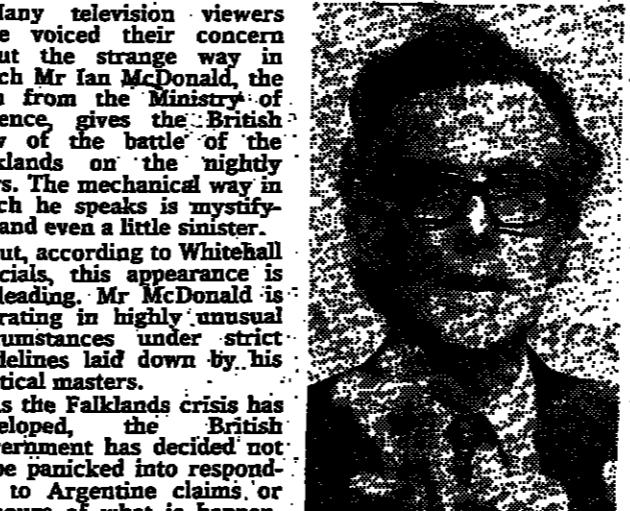
Stockholm: A row has erupted in Sweden over support given by Mr Olof Ullsten, the Foreign Minister for British action in the Falklands. Mr Olof Palme, the Socialist opposition leader, has strongly criticized Mr Ullsten, and demanded that he explain it to a full meeting of Parliament.

Mr Ullsten emphasized later that he was referring to the recapture of South Georgia.

Overseas selling prices: Austria 50c; Bahrain 50c; Belgium 8fr; Bulgaria 40fr; Canada 25c; Chile 100 pesos; China 100 yuan; Costa Rica 100 colones; Denmark 10 krone; Finland 70 krone; France 10 francs; Germany 100 marks; Greece 10 drachmas; Holland 12.50; Israel 100 shekels; Italy 100 lire; Japan 100 yen; Luxembourg 100 francs; Malta 100 maltese liras; Norway 7.50; Pakistan 10 rupees; Portugal 100 escudos; Saudi Arabia 100 riyals; Spain 100 pesetas; Switzerland 100 francs; Turkey 100 lira; Uganda 100 shillings; Uruguay 100 pesos; Venezuela 100 bolivars; Yugoslavia 100 dinars; Zambia 100 kwacha.

London: News presenter with a strict brief

By David Cross



Ian McDonald: Quoting Haider's words.

Listening to him are foreign and do not understand English particularly well, while others want him to read slowly so that they can write down his words in shorthand. Until a month or so ago,

he had regular dealings with him although they sometimes find his patrician manner a little difficult. Like public relations officers in the Foreign Office, Mr McDonald

normally avoids the direct response to a question and enjoys dropping hints to be deciphered by his listeners.

Before the eight-day television strike, Mr McDonald, who is from Scotland, had to learn Spanish, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Greek and Polish. He has collected Indian paintings and tried to quote Shakespeare to make a point to journalists. He cited Hamlet's words: "Look here, upon this picture, and on this countenance presentment of two brothers: to make the point that he would not say anything he did not believe to be true in recounting the British Government's version of the battles around the Falklands."

But now that his words are being recorded for television viewers he has to be more direct and instantly comprehensible. He has a well-tuned sense of humour and he probably finds these constraints little unnatural. Certainly his colleagues in the ministry of defence are impressed by his intellect and his willingness not to take himself too seriously.

He said both countries should respect the Security Council resolution, which called on Argentina to withdraw its troops from the Falklands.

London: Political leaders and newspapers headlines expressed shock and outrage at the recent escalation of the war. The *Independent* Dario Diéguez headlined its front-page story: "Mass Murder on the High Seas".

There is a growing feeling among political leaders that Spain is being ambivalent about its position in the Falklands dispute.

The Government has issued a statement condemning Britain for escalating the war, but has not taken sides, offering only to mediate.

Paris: The Pope called for prayers for the victims of the Falklands Islands conflict and said he hoped that Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, United Nations Secretary-General, might bring peace between Britain and Argentina.

São Paulo: Brazilian public opinion is quickly coming to the conclusion that the price being paid by Britain and Argentina over the Falklands is too high. Brazil supports the Irish call for a meeting of the Security Council, and is to participate in a meeting of Latin-American members of the United Nations, called for by Argentina.

Stockholm: A row has erupted in Sweden over support given by Mr Olof Ullsten, the Foreign Minister for British action in the Falklands. Mr Olof Palme, the Socialist opposition leader, has strongly criticized Mr Ullsten, and demanded that he explain it to a full meeting of Parliament.

Mr Ullsten emphasized later that he was referring to the recapture of South Georgia.

Overseas selling prices:

Austria 50c; Bahrain 50c; Canada 25c; Chile 100 pesos; China 100 yuan; Costa Rica 100 colones; Denmark 10 krone; Finland 70 krone; France 10 francs; Germany 100 marks; Greece 10 drachmas; Holland 12.50; Israel 100 shekels; Italy 100 lire; Japan 100 yen; Luxembourg 100 francs; Malta 100 maltese liras; Norway 7.50; Pakistan 10 rupees; Portugal 100 escudos; Saudi Arabia 100 riyals; Spain 100 pesetas;

FALKLANDS CRISIS/2

Direct hit raises questions on Navy's defence

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The comprehensive destruction of the destroyer Sheffield by a single missile is raising a number of embarrassing questions for Britain and for Nato about the size of the fleet, the design of its ships and the weapons they carry.

In one sense Tuesday's disaster vindicates the complaint of Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, last year that too much is spent on weapon platforms for the armed forces and not enough on the weapons themselves.

This is not the first time that the 14 Type 42 destroyers in the Royal Navy have been surrounded by controversy. The 4,000-ton ships, which cost about £85m two years ago and more than £5m a year to operate, have long been criticized for being under-armed.

They were designed primarily to accommodate the Sea Dart air defence missile and thus help to provide protection from enemy aircraft for task forces like the one now in the South Atlantic.

Sea Dart can also be used against other ships, which is just as well because the only other weapons on the Type 42 comprise a 4.5in gun, two 20mm cannon and a Lynx helicopter.

An article in the authoritative journal *Navy International*, at the time of the Sheffield's acceptance by the fleet in the mid-1970's, compared her mix of weapons unfavourably with that of the Soviet Krivak class ships whose size is comparable. It commented with what now turns out to have been sad

prescience: "it would be scarcely wise to allow her out in dangerous waters alone."

But in this case it would seem that she was not alone. Moreover the Sheffield was struck by a missile fired not from another ship but from one of the very aircraft against which the Sea Dart system was supposed to protect the task force.

The Super Estandard which launched the Exocet was probably operating out of one of Argentina's Southern bases such as Rio Gallegos or Tierra del Fuego.

Its radius of action like that of all combat aircraft depends upon its payload, speed and altitude, but with Exocet under the starboard wing and a 1,100-litre external fuel tank strapped to the port wing it could probably manage 450 miles.

This should have been enough for the pilot had another surveillance aircraft pinpointing his target for him first and guiding him straight to it. Argentina has also two Hercules tankers for in-flight refuelling, which would remain well behind the combat zone because of their vulnerability. But it is questionable whether the five Super Estandards in service with the Argentines are fitted for mid-air refuelling.

If the Sheffield was operating as a picket, standing off from the main task force ships such as the Hermes and the Invincible, it would have presented the pilot with a clear target. He would have had to climb to identify it at long range, then would sink once more below the horizon - disappearing from the

radar screens on the Sheffield almost as quickly as he came.

He would have fed the target information into the Exocet's computer before firing the missile and watching it begin its sea-skimming journey of 20 miles or more at a speed slightly beyond the speed of sound. In the last stages of its flight the Exocet's own homing radar would have taken over and guided it to the bursting heart of the destroyer.

Sea Dart has a good performance against aircraft at high and medium altitude, and a range far greater than the 25 miles published. But the aircraft would have been at altitude only briefly and the missile not at all.

The most important lesson for the Navy is the necessity of finding a place on all its ships for Sea Wolf, the lightning fast anti-missile so far installed only on two frigates with the task force, the new Type 22 ships Broadsword and Brilliant.

The unique British Aerospace Sea Wolf, so fast and accurate that it can split a shell in mid-flight, has so far taken up too much space for naval designers to find room for it on warships not specifically built with the system in mind.

But a lightweight system with a new radar being developed by Marconi, which recently won the contract

against strong competition from a Dutch company, is about to become available.

Plans to fit lightweight Seawolf to a wider variety of vessels were thrown in jeopardy by the naval cuts last year. But this disaster off the Falkland Islands has at least demonstrated the need for most, if not all, major warships to have anti-missile systems in addition to decoys and jamming counter-measures.

Yet another field for investigation during the coming months, however, is what happened after the Exocet strike. The Sheffield is fitted with all the latest anti-fire devices including sprinkler systems, fireproof doors and hatches and foam extinguishers. Her hull is made of steel not aluminum as reported elsewhere.

Yet the crew were forced to abandon ship because the high explosive missile caused a fire which was beyond the control of the destroyer's own fire-fighting teams and those from other ships.

An inquiry is understood to have already started among the task force following the loss of the Sheffield. Two other Type 42 destroyers are on hand and the Sea Dart system is also installed on the carrier Invincible. But a decision will have to be made on whether a replacement for the stricken Sheffield is needed.

Smoke from sea to clouds

From John Witherow on board HMS Invincible in the South Atlantic

In a report carried in the final edition of yesterday's Times, John Witherow, in a posted dispatch, told of the destruction of the Sheffield:

The fleet was attacked by two Super Estandard jets carrying Exocet missiles. One missile went past the Sheffield but the second scored a direct hit on her. A massive pall of smoke appeared on the horizon as Sea King helicopters ferried casualties back to the flagship carrier HMS Hermes. The Sheffield, about 15 miles away, was completely blotted out by the smoke which formed a solid column from the sea to the clouds.

As fires raged in the Sheffield a call was put out for hoses and pumping equipment to be dropped by helicopter. A frigate went alongside to help tackle the fires but three hours later it was decided to give the order to abandon ship because of the danger of a possible explosion of the Sheffield's own Sea Dart missiles.

Two hours after the attack the Invincible's crew were told: "Sheffield is floating level and high in the water. There are fires still burning on board."

It was 14.15 GMT when the alarm sounded on the Invincible and the 1,000-man crew were told: "Air raid imminent from the South West."

Captain James "Sam" Salt, commander of HMS Sheffield, who comes from Petersfield, Hampshire.

as its engines were turned up to full speed as it moved this way and that through the water.

There were loud whooshes and explosions as Invincible's anti-missile screens were deployed. The sounds caused everyone to jump as they were just like the noise of an incoming rocket. One minute later the ship's crew were told: "The picture is somewhat confused. But there are almost certainly now no missiles in flight."

At that point a frigate launched a torpedo attack against a suspected enemy submarine beneath the task force. She reported loud underwater explosions and helicopters were called in to carry out sonar sweeps for submarines. From the Invincible could be seen a sea full of warships all manoeuvring at top speed in defensive formations.

As the news about the Sheffield came through, 22-year-old Tom Cunningham from Liverpool, a Naffi counter assistant who signed on for active naval service only two days ago for the duration of hostilities, said: "My future brother-in-law is on the Sheffield. I was at his house only a few days before we left the United Kingdom. I can't believe this has happened. Sheffield was at Gibraltar when we sailed from Portsmouth."

A team of naval chaplains, officers and social workers who had been on 24-hour call for such emergencies for the last four weeks set off to meet the families of the dead early yesterday.

Flags were at half-mast throughout the city. Mr John Marshall, the leader of the City Council's ruling Con-

Portsmouth mourns victims

From David Hewson, Portsmouth

servative group, said that the mood was "sad but shaken".

"It is unfortunately part of our history and part of our destiny to face this tragic happening. We can only show solidarity and support for the ships and men still there," he said.

A memorial service will be held for the dead of the Sheffield though it is not until after the Falklands crisis is settled.

Mr MacGurgan rejected Mr Crosbie's demand that Canada halt the shipment of nuclear fuel.

If Canada broke its contracts the Buenos Aires Government might feel free to use a nuclear power station being built by Canadian engineers in Argentina "in ways we would not approve", an apparent reference to the possibility of making nuclear bombs from the station's spent fuel.

Mr Robert Wenman another prominent Conservative MP, attacked the Government from a different direction. While agreeing that Britain's position was morally and legally correct, he observed critically that several hundred people had now died protecting the rights of 1,800 Falklanders. Canada was a friend of Britain but Mr Wenman asked: "Don't you have an obligation to draw them back all?"

Mrs Hattersley recently invited all the crew and officers of the Sheffield for a civic reception at the town hall.

Admiral may be under threat

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, May 5

Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya, the commander of the Argentine Navy and member of the three-man ruling junta in Buenos Aires, may be the first head to roll.

The Falklands Crisis, according to the Washington-based Council on Hemispheric Affairs, is said to be hesitant to commit his force to battle for fear of losing its aircraft.

The council, which is sponsored by American trade unions and professional and academic groups and is one of a number of specialist organizations involved with Latin American affairs, made its assessment before the successful Argentine attack on the Shetlands.

It said Admiral Anaya was responsible for the dispatch of a group of scrap metal workers to South Georgia in March 20. Their subsequent expulsion by the British provided the pretext for Argentina's invasion of the Falklands two weeks later.

The provocation, according to the council, was intended by Admiral Anaya unilaterally ordered several Argentine warships, including its only aircraft carrier, the twenty-five of May, to sail on April 15 from Puerto Belgrano, without any prior consultation with other members of the armed forces joint chiefs of staff. Since then, the Argentine Navy has suffered severe losses.

The Argentine Army and Air Force have reluctantly dragged by Admiral Anaya's actions into a conflict about which they have serious misgivings. General Mario Iglesias, chief of the Air Force, is said to be hesitant to commit his force to battle for fear of losing its aircraft.

They would be of crucial importance if Argentina went to war with Chile over the Beagle Channel dispute. The Air Force has spent tens of millions of dollars on new aircraft since the two countries nearly went to war in 1979. Admiral Anaya was the main instigator of the flare-up in the Beagle Channel dispute.

The Argentine high command is in obvious and serious disarray because of Anaya's privatising, the council said. "His maverick actions will be used by the high command to avoid taking direct responsibility for what is quickly developing into a major military and political disaster for Argentina."

The council says that divisiveness is now so pronounced within the armed forces that Argentina has no hope of staging an effective counter-offensive to British tactics.

Government pays first P & O bill

From John Best
Ottawa, May 5

The Canadian government has been accused of hypocrisy in continuing to ship nuclear fuel bundles to Argentina in the Falkland Islands crisis. The accusation was one of several made to Mr Mark MacGurgan, the External Affairs Minister, at a lively meeting last night, of the House of Commons standing committee on foreign affairs, which was dominated by the Falklands question.

Mr MacGurgan told Mr John Crosbie, the foreign affairs spokesman of the official Conservative opposition, that Canada has given strong moral support to Britain besides banning military exports to Argentina and allowing Britain the use of communications facilities on Canada's east coast. Britain's use of force in the hostilities had been proper and reasonable so far as he could determine.

Nevertheless he was "concerned" about the increasing loss of life in the Falklands conflict and had ordered Canadian diplomats at the United Nations to increase their efforts in support of a negotiated solution.

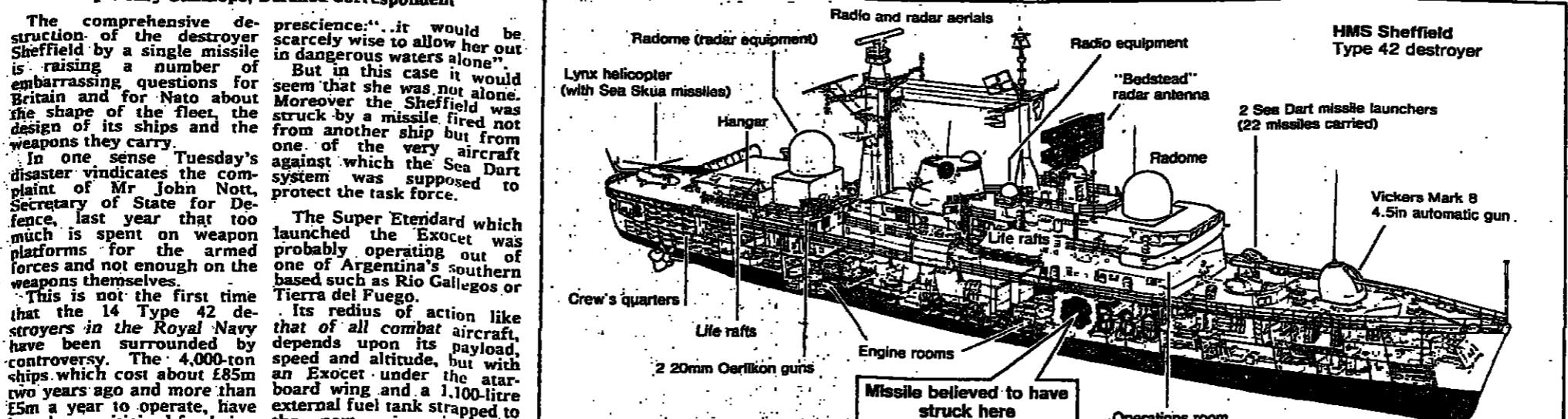
Mr MacGurgan rejected Mr Crosbie's demand that Canada halt the shipment of nuclear fuel.

If Canada broke its contracts the Buenos Aires Government might feel free to use a nuclear power station being built by Canadian engineers in Argentina "in ways we would not approve", an apparent reference to the possibility of making nuclear bombs from the station's spent fuel.

Senegal has confirmed that British aircraft are using Dakar as a stopover on the way to Ascension Island in the South Atlantic. Mr Djibo Keita, the Information Minister, said that the use of Dakar was "certainly" within the terms of agreements that existed between Britain and the Senegal.

Seamen say no

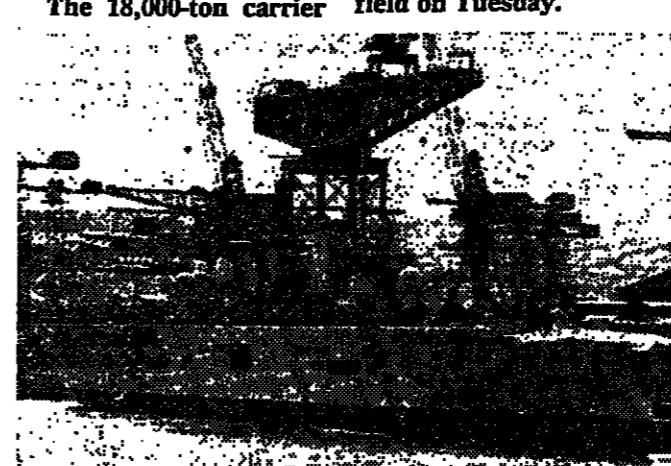
Seamen at Felixstowe, Suffolk, decided yesterday to heed their union's advice not to sail their vessels Nordic Ferry and Baltic Ferry to the Falklands Islands. Both vessels have been requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence.



Reinforcing the fleet

The loss of HMS Sheffield, whose main features are illustrated above, has spurred Tyne-side into "superhuman efforts" to speed up delivery of the Royal Navy's latest ship.

At the same time, preparations are almost complete for the launching ceremony on Saturday of HMS Beaver, a Type 22 frigate being built at Yarrow's Shipyard on the Clyde. The ship will be equipped with Exocet guided missiles, similar to the ones that hit HMS Sheffield on Tuesday.



Plans to fit lightweight Seawolf to a wider variety of vessels were thrown in jeopardy by the naval cuts last year. But this disaster off the Falkland Islands has at least demonstrated the need for most, if not all, major warships to have anti-missile systems in addition to decoys and jamming counter-measures.

Yet another field for investigation during the coming months, however, is what happened after the Exocet strike. The Sheffield is fitted with all the latest anti-fire devices including sprinkler systems, fireproof doors and hatches and foam extinguishers. Her hull is made of steel not aluminum as reported elsewhere.

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An inquiry is understood to have already started among the task force following the loss of the Sheffield. Two other Type 42 destroyers are on hand and the Sea Dart system is also installed on the carrier Invincible. But a decision will have to be made on whether a replacement for the stricken Sheffield is needed.

Portsmouth found itself faced with the recurrent fear of a naval city yesterday, the reminder that the darker side of glory is grief. The loss of the destroyer Sheffield was met with incomprehension, sadness and an impotent anger by both civilians and naval personnel. The destroyer was based at Portsmouth and had last visited it in November before sailing for the Indian Ocean.

Two British warships have been on permanent patrol off the Gulf of Oman since the start of the Iran-Iraq war. When the Falklands hostilities broke out, the Sheffield was on its way home to Britain and preparations were well advanced for a party for the crews' families on board at Portsmouth.

On Tuesday night the same families were in constant touch with the special switchboards of the Naval Families Service in Portsmouth which were set up to deal with inquiries from relatives after the news broke of the ship's loss.

A team of naval chaplains, officers and social workers who had been on 24-hour call for such emergencies for the last four weeks set off to meet the families of the dead early yesterday.

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servative group, said that the mood was "sad but shaken".

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Mrs Hattersley recently invited all the crew and officers of the Sheffield for a civic reception at the town hall.

There was a remarkable expression of patriotism when the two aircraft carriers left here. Tens of thousands of people followed them. I think there is now a kind of gut reaction which says that it is time we should stop being pushed around."

Mr Marshall said that he was in Portsmouth during the last War when the Hood

was sunk. "I rather question whether people round here are very sympathetic about the United Nations. The media seemed extraordinarily concerned about the Belgrano, almost as if the BBC was trying to be impartial. That isn't the way we look at it," Mr Marshall said.

"There was a message of sympathy is expected to go from the city to the Royal Navy; plans for a commemorative service may be made later."

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PARLIAMENT May 5 1982

Haig proposals still best way forward

FALKLANDS

An early ceasefire is a vital ingredient of the diplomatic ideas for solving the Falklands crisis on which the British Government and Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, are working. Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in a statement in the Commons.

The Government was sparing no efforts in the search for an acceptable solution in line with the principles it had stated on several occasions.

Although it is we who have been the victims of aggression (he said) it is also we who are working tirelessly and constructively for a peaceful solution.

Mr Pym said: The military losses which have now occurred on both sides in this unhappy conflict emphasize all the more the urgent need to find a diplomatic solution.

The House will wish to know that since my return from the United States on Monday I have remained in the closest possible touch with Mr Haig.

As I reported to the House yesterday, we are working very actively on ideas put to us by Mr Haig, including some advanced by the President of Peru. Yesterday afternoon, after my statement, I made a contribution of our own to Mr Haig. He is taking this fully into account. I shall be in touch with him again later on today.

I want to tell the House that a vital ingredient of the ideas on which we are working is an early ceasefire and the prompt withdrawal of Argentine forces. I can assure the House that we are sparing no efforts in the search for an acceptable solution in line with the principles which we have stated on several occasions.

The points I have put to me in New York by the Secretary-General of the United Nations are also receiving our very careful attention. I have been in touch with Mr Perez de Cuellar about this since my return from New York and will continue to keep in close contact with him.

There are many points of similarity between the Secretary-General's thinking and the points we are pursuing with Mr Haig. Indeed, Mr Perez de Cuellar has been most helpful in reflecting on the basis of an solution which we may be able to achieve.

I can assure the House that any obstructionism there may be will not come from our side. Although it is we who have been working tirelessly and constructively for a peaceful solution. (Cheers.)

Mr Denis Healey, deputy Leader of the Opposition and spokesman on foreign and commonwealth affairs: We all feel that if military escalation continues in the way it has over the past few days, more lives could be lost, both Argentine and British, than the are in the Falkland Islands. It underlines the paramount necessity of achieving a diplomatic solution.

Can Mr Pym confirm reports that Mr Haig has asked for a two-day ceasefire so that diplomatic possibilities can be further explored and that in the case, what is the response the British Government has given?

I particularly welcomed what he said about the United Nations Secretary General, which was a good deal more forthcoming than what he said yesterday which in turn was more forthcoming than what he said last Thursday.

I see that the Secretary-General is reported in *The Times* today as saying that the suspension of the peace initiative by Mr Haig has created a diplomatic vacuum which only the United Nations can fill.

As I will know, that has been the view of the Opposition for some time.

As I understand it, the Argentine Government has already agreed to accept the good offices of the United Nations. I appeal to Mr Pym to agree that the British Government should do the same. There is no doubt it might have had at one time must have been removed by the Secretary-General's statement yesterday that he insists on the full implementation of resolution 502 which requires Argentine forces to leave the Falkland Islands.

I was particularly glad to hear Mr Pym endorse my words this morning, that a ceasefire must depend on agreement on negoti-

ating processes which will get Argentine forces off the islands. That is an important distinction from the demand that a ceasefire cannot take place until Argentine forces have left.

Mr Pym: I thank him for what he has said, but I would infinite prefer that these troops leave the islands under peaceful means rather than be driven out by force and if anyone can achieve that everyone would be relieved.

Mr Robert Cryer (Keighley, Lab): Would it be confirmed that resolution 502 does not give carte blanche to the Government, but calls for a cessation of hostilities and a negotiated peaceful resolution of the dispute?

Does the Government recognise the escalation of the military activity could result in the deaths of the Falkland Islanders — the very people we are claiming are we seeking to do?

Mr Pym: Does he not realise that by military action the Government is seen to be less and less willing to find a diplomatic settlement and more and more for military settlement?

Mr Cryer: The resolution also calls for withdrawal which he did not mention. I am thinking of the islanders and they are suffering at the moment under the heel of the invader whom they did not want and did not invite and which is intent on imposing on them a way of life and government of its own.

It is in their defence we have taken the steps we have. They are at the moment suffering under an invading country and there are far too many invading countries in the world at the present time. We have that very much in mind.

Mr Jonathon Aitken (Thanet, East, C): There remains a formidable problem in negotiating with the Argentine Junta since its leaders have shown themselves to speak with divided and often contradictory and even incompatible interests.

Will he be appropriately cautious about negotiating terms for a ceasefire or anything like it until they have shown by their deeds that they are withdrawing their troops?

Mr Pym: There is no question of hiding behind anything. I have been in touch with the Secretary-General and responding to those points we are pursuing with Mr Haig.

Indeed, Mr Perez de Cuellar has reflected on the basis of an solution which we may be able to achieve.

Mr Healey: Have proposals been made? I do not blame him for not disclosing them, as this is a matter which requires to be kept under diplomatic privacy, but if the proposals have been made what is the most helpful basis for achieving a settlement and sometimes in the middle of the night?

Mr David Trippier (Rossendale, C): Is it correct to assume that the formal negotiations by Mr Haig are inter-linked with those pursued by Peru?

Mr Pym: The proposals by the United States have been put down to Argentina and turned down by Argentina over. Since then a number of governments have produced ideas and at present we are working on proposals which are a mixture of those of the United States and those from the President of Peru.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire, Lab): How many more lives have to be lost before the Government fully realizes there can be no purely military solution to this crisis? If the Government is serious, intent on a long-term political solution which does not comply with the increasing demand from some Labour MPs and also nationally and internationally, for an immediate ceasefire and for the United Nations, not the United States to act as a mediator?

The situation is in danger of escalating into a full-scale blood bath which no one will win and Britain will find itself increasingly isolated.

Mr Pym: I would like an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal which the Argentine is under an obligation to do under resolution 502. At the moment the Argentine shows no sign of doing so, indeed entirely to the contrary.

I am searching for this solution notwithstanding the fact that we are the victims and the country that has suffered an act of aggression when the Falkland Islands was invaded. There does not seem to be a desire on the part of the Argentine to do so far, for seeking an agreement.

Mr Michael Neubert (Harrowing, Romford, C): The indivisibility of the question of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands is a long-term position. Will he positively welcome the concept of a trusteeship council?

Mr Pym: There were some proposals that originated in Peru completely and there have been discussions within other organisations. I hope out of them will have a chance of success. Mr Haig is in touch with Peru and working in that way and through them as they are friends with the Argentine and this may be a good way to negotiate with the Argentine.

In the long term the Government has borne in mind about anything that might be a solution and the trusteeship concept is one of these and may in the end prove to be a highly satisfactory outcome, little scope for negotiation.

That will not do (the said) if a just solution is to be reached. (Cheers)

Lord Hankey (Ind) suggested there might be a case for using maximum force and settling the matter "jolly quickly".

Lord Belstead: We must do one more thing. We are ready at all times to enter into proper negotiations on this matter. We are ready to use the good offices of the President of Peru, Mr Haig and of the UN Secretary General but it has got to be fair and just negotiations.

He added: The factors Mr Healey mentions are obviously most relevant to any decision we shall take.

Mr Frederic Bennett (Torbay, C): It is relevant in the context of events in the Falklands that immediately after the invasion the Chileans stepped up its very articulate demands for gaining Belize.

I ask not so much if Mr Onslow is prepared to give a date or not but that, if British troops do stay in Belize, we lack the universal acceptance of the House of the full efforts and determination to make sure that they do not get let down at the last moment.

Mr Onslow: We have no intention to let Belize down and we are watching closely what is being said by the new regime in Guatemala.

Mr Healey: I speak for many in both sides of the House. Many of us feel the Falklands crisis arose because the Government gave a false signal to the Argentine Government. Unless Mr Onslow is able to give a specific answer to my specific question he is in danger of giving another false signal, so I appeal to him again to answer.

There was laughter when Mr Nicholas Winter (Macclesfield, C) called out: close that brief.

Mr Onslow: Who closed his Red folder, replied: We have no intention of giving false signals even to those who wish to see them.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South West, Staffordshire, C): The only answer the house needs is a simple one. The word is "Yes". (Cheers)

Mr Onslow: I am well aware of the mood of the House. I do not know why the House does not understand me. (Some laughter and interruptions.)

Earlier, Mr Robert Atkins had said: Now more than ever the threat to Belize from Guatemala

should be taken into full consideration. The British forces in Belize cost a mere £4.4m. They are wanted by the Belize authorities to protect their interests. This should be pursued without delay.

Will he give an assurance that they will stay as long as necessary?

Mr Onslow: The British garrison remains in Belize. No decision has been taken on a date for its withdrawal.

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Mr Onslow: Who closed his Red folder, replied: We have no intention of giving false signals even to those who wish to see them.

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Mr Onslow: I am well aware of the mood of the House. I do not know why the House does not understand me. (Some laughter and interruptions.)

Earlier, Mr Robert Atkins had said: Now more than ever the threat to Belize from Guatemala

should be taken into full consideration. The British forces in Belize cost a mere £4.4m. They are wanted by the Belize authorities to protect their interests. This should be pursued without delay.

Will he give an assurance that they will stay as long as necessary?

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New rules on tape recording in Police Bill

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

New rules covering tape recording of police interviews and wider powers to search and search will be included in a Police Bill being prepared by the Government for introduction in the Autumn.

For the first time since the police were formed, the Bill is expected to introduce codes governing every aspect of the relationship between the police and people who might come into contact with them in a criminal matter.

Greater independent oversight of the handling of complaints against the police will be an important proposal in the Bill. But there is likely to be no provision to give statutory backing to consultations between police and the community, as Lord Scarman wants.

His plea last weekend for his recommendations, made in the report on the Brixton riots, to be introduced as a package is unlikely to be heeded.

Ministers are to decide on the mix of proposals in the Bill this month so they can be drawn up for inclusion in the Queen's Speech in the autumn.

The Bill will broadly endorse the main thrust of proposals 18 months ago by the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure, which was the first comprehensive review of its kind for a century.

The Government has accepted the principle of tape recording evidence given to the police during interviews, but has been waiting to see the outcome of a limited experiment in Scotland, which has now been extended to Glasgow and Aberdeen.

What is in the Bill will depend upon experience there. Ministers say there is so far no general indication that the principle of tape recording of police questioning is proving impracticable. The royal commission recommended its gradual introduction to be used in indictable cases for the making and reading back of the summary of interview of a written statement.

The Bill is expected to go along with the commission's recommendations that powers to stop and search persons on reasonable suspicion of being in possession

Lawyers press for change on judges

By Frances Gibb

The Law Society is pressing the Government to remove the present block on circuit judges who were originally solicitors being appointed to sit as High Court judges. At present only former barristers can be appointed.

It is intended to put down an amendment to the Administration of Justice Bill which shortly starts its passage through the Commons; the second time in the past 18 months that the society has tried to change the law on this point.

Mr Graham Lee, secretary, professional and public relations at the Law Society, said: "We are not saying solicitors should be High Court judges. We are saying that circuit judges should be entitled to sit as High Court judges, whether they have been solicitors or not."

"Once someone is appointed a circuit judge, he or she is technically neither a barrister nor solicitor, so why make the distinction?"

Mr David Edwards, another official at the Law Society, said it was illogical that circuit judges could be appointed to sit as High Court judges, if they were good enough, but not if they had been solicitors.

The Law Society's last attempt to change the law was during the passage of the Supreme Court Bill through the Lords. The amendment was opposed by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone.

An official from the Solicitor General's office indicated yesterday that the Government's position remained unchanged, and therefore the Law Society will depend for the success of its amendment on the degree of back-bench support it can muster.

Opposing the amendment proposed to the Supreme Court Bill, in March 1981, Lord Hailsham said practice in the High Court, depended on knowledge of the complex High Court practice. "I cannot see the smallest possibility of appointing to the High Court bench anybody who had not got, not 10, but probably more like 20 or 25, years experience of High Court practice, both pleading and advocacy, and in the present situation that means members of the Bar."

If a solicitor felt his role was in advocacy he should follow the path taken by Lord Widgery, the former Lord Chief Justice, and change over to the Bar, he said.

The most likely candidate for the job of assessor would be Sir Cyril Phillips, who chaired the Royal Commission and is now chairman of the Police Complaints Board.

Police in Toxteth riot case cleared

From Arthur Osman
Mold

Two Merseyside police officers will be back on duty today after being cleared yesterday of the manslaughter of a partially disabled man during last summer's Toxteth riots.

A jury at Mold Crown Court found Sergeant Keith Wilkinson, aged 34, of Buttermere Close, Maghull, not guilty on the direction of the jury before any defence evidence was called. Constable James Keenan, aged 30, of Grasmere Avenue, Prescot, was found not guilty on an unanimous verdict. It was the ninth day of the trial.

In a statement read by Mr Kevin Dooley, a Liverpool solicitor, after they had left the court, both officers expressed their condolences to the dead man's family "and their relief that they have been vindicated by the unanimous verdict of the jury of any criminal responsibility". They said they would "now like to return to the privacy of their families and are looking forward to returning to their normal duties".

Mr David Moore, aged 23, of Wavertree, Liverpool, a partially disabled man was hit by a police van driven by Constable Keenan. The police support unit in the vehicle was commanded by Sergeant Wilkinson.

Solicitors for the dead man's family said later that they would be making a civil claim for damages against the police.

The court had been told that the van had been driven over wasteland in Toxteth on a night of violence to disperse rioters throwing petrol bombs and missiles at a group of unprotected police officers.

After two days of submissions by Mr George Carman, QC for Constable Keenan and Mr John Hazan, QC for Sergeant Wilkinson, that the case should be



Sergeant Keith Wilkinson (left) and Police Constable James Keenan leaving Mold Crown court yesterday after they had been cleared of the manslaughter of Mr David Moore.

withdrawn from the jury, the judge ruled yesterday that there was no evidence against Sergeant Wilkinson that he had committed the offence. The judge said the sergeant had not controlled or participated in the driving.

Before the jury was directed to return a not guilty verdict against the sergeant, the judge said he had not taken into account the same course in Constable Keenan's case because the weight of evidence relating to him was a matter for the jury and not himself. There had been conflict between witnesses.

The judge told them: "If at any stage you desire to say that the defendant Keenan is not guilty you are entitled to do so. Manslaughter cannot be proved unless Keenan showed such disregard for life and safety as to amount to criminal conduct."

"This requires proof of a very high degree of negligence and dangerous driving."

After a 30 minutes adjournment the jury returned with a not guilty verdict and judge and counsel paid tribute to the "enormous thoroughness" of the investigation. Police interviewed 1,400 people including 1,200 police officers and 231 officers spent six weeks in Liverpool on that the judge called, a difficult and important case.

Cheap TV licences may break rules

By Kenneth Gosling

Local authorities operating cheap television licence schemes for pensioners were given a warning yesterday that they could be flouting the regulations governing that concession, which is enjoyed by an estimated 480,000 pensioners.

The warning comes in the wake of a letter sent last week to 8,000 South Tyneside pensioners who bought 5p television licences, through a misinterpretation of the law by the local borough council. The National Television Licence Records Office, which sent the letter, said yesterday:

day: "As a result of this we will be looking at other authorities."

A spokesman said: "The original idea was to cover institutionalised accommodation. On South Tyneside, the people who benefited were not living in accommodation specially provided for old people."

It was also being claimed yesterday that some local election candidates were promising concessionary licences without fully understanding the regulations.

It was in 1969 that Mr John Stonehouse, the postmaster-general, introduced a dual

system for licensing television sets used by old people. If they had their own private set in a room in an old people's home or in housing provided by a local authority under the supervision of an area warden, the fee was only 5p, then one shilling. (In 1969 a colour licence cost £11).

Subsequent attempts by some authorities to extend the scheme have run into trouble. The records office said some tried to evade the regulations by appointing young people to visit old people in their homes four times a year. They regarded

that as qualifying them as living in "sheltered" accommodation, which it did not.

The BBC estimates a revenue loss to them on South Tyneside of £600,000.

Under the Wireless Telegraphy (Broadcasting Licence Charges and Exemption) Regulations, 1970, The definition of an old person's home includes "a group of dwellings provided under Part V of the Housing Act 1957, specially for retired persons of pensionable age in association with other accommodation or facilities intended for the common use of all the occupants".

New GLC post to help women

The Greater London Council is seeking applicants for a new, one-year post of adviser to women's opportunities (David Walker writes). It is believed to be the first such job offered by any employer.

The job is the latest of a number of senior and well-paid posts announced by the Labour administration. The official is to be expected to lead "significant new initiatives aimed at eradicating unfair discrimination in employment".

At the annual meeting of the Labour group of councillors last month it was decided to create a women's committee, which would review GLC jobs to find out if enough women were employed at various grades. Its chairman or "chair", in GLC parlance, is to be Miss Valerie Wise, a noted left-winger.

'Sun' journalists get 9.8pc rise

Journalists at The Sun who had been in mandatory union meetings for the past week, yesterday returned to normal working after agreeing a pay and conditions package worth 9.8 per cent. The deal includes a 1 per cent increase in salaries from April 1, a £500 productivity payment and a payment of £310 plus £13 as partial consolidation of a media allowance. There are improvements to holiday and other benefits. The new minimum salary is increased to £14,600, according to the National Union of Journalists.

Railway death

Francis Piron, aged 14, a French schoolboy was killed by a train at Wimbledon, south London, when he tried to walk home along a railway line, thinking he had missed the last train. An inquest at Westminster yesterday recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Bishop's miles

The Bishop of Hereford, the Right Rev John Eastaugh, aged 62, set off yesterday on a 200-mile pilgrimage on foot through his diocese to mark the 700th anniversary of the death of St Thomas Cantilupe.

Teachers' 6 pc

Teachers in Scotland were yesterday awarded a 6 per cent increase, backdated to April, by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

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BMA backs call to reduce lead pollution

By Our Medical Correspondent

A report on lead pollution which says it is scientifically impossible to set a level at which lead is harmful to individuals was unanimously approved by the council of the British Medical Association (BMA) yesterday.

The report, by the BMA's science and education board, will lend considerable support to the campaign to reduce lead in petrol when it is submitted to the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

The BMA now accepts that studies are showing mental impairment in children occurring at lead levels lower than previously thought harmful and emphasizes that these reports should not be ignored.

The new report says that as there is a high degree of individual susceptibility to damage by lead there is a continuum of harm.

The BMA recommends that lead in the environment should be reduced and that in particular urgent measures should be taken to reduce the amount from sources which might affect women of reproductive age, infants and children.

The scientific board has quoted in the report from the preliminary findings of an experiment in Turin, commissioned by the EEC and a United States Government agency. By using lead with a distinctive isotope in petrol, it has been possible to show that a third of the blood lead level derives from petrol.

After the meeting a BMA spokesman said: "Lead is a biological poison. If the opportunity arises to reduce the concentration by a third the conclusion about what should be done should be obvious to everybody; particularly as it is an accumulative poison, which is only very slowly rid from the body."

"It has a half-life measured in a considerable number of years so that by the time we reach adult life it is already too late to excrete all the lead accumulated in childhood."

Hospital appeal

□ The overcrowded and unsafe working conditions in which research is being carried out at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London has prompted the hospital to launch an urgent public appeal for money (Felicity Jones writes).

The patient-oriented research work, which includes investigation into the

Dock union leaders call off strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Dock union leaders yesterday decided by a narrow majority to suspend the national port strike due to begin on Monday over the extension of the industry's unique job security system.

The Transport and General Workers' Docks and Waterways Committee voted to put off industrial action to allow time for testing the Government's intentions on bringing up to 80 ports into the National Dock Labour Scheme.

By an undisclosed, but small majority, the committee agreed to recommend to a national docks delegate conference tomorrow that the proposed strike involving 24,000 dock workers should be suspended while proposals are prepared for the Department of Employment.

Mr David Waddington, Employment Under-Secretary, said in a letter to the TGWU that the Government would give serious consideration to detailed proposals on the extension of the labour scheme to individual ports where employers and workers wanted it.

□ Farm workers could rely on the full support of Britain's largest union, the Transport and General Workers, in future disputes with employers. Mr Moray Evans, the TGWU general secretary, said yesterday (Our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

At a press conference after the merger of the former National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers with the TGWU, Mr Evans made it clear that the localized nature of many agricultural disputes would not inhibit the union giving "considerable assistance" to members in difficulty.

Leading article, page 13

£15,120 for Antoinette's tender notes

By Geraldine Norman
Sale Room Correspondent

Documentation of the efforts of Count Hans Axel von Fersen to protect and rescue Queen Maria Antoinette from the hands of the revolutionaries was bought by the French Archives Nationales at Christie's yesterday for £15,000 (£20,000).

Fersen was the queen's most faithful ally and confidant; whether there was a closer relationship remains unresolved but the tendon of this correspondence suggests it.

The documentation includes autograph letters from the queen to Fersen from the Tuilleries written in 1791 and 1792, and transcripts of other letters, mostly in Fersen's hand, and many letters from Fersen to the Queen.

There is a theological bill for the coach, a Berline, in which the queen escaped to Barennes in June, 1791, made out to an assumed name, la Baronne de Korff.

The top price at Christie's sale of autograph letters, documents and manuscripts was secured by a Sherlock Holmes short story, *The Greek Interpreter*, at £15,600 (estimate £12,000-£15,000) to Quaritch.

An important political archive from the first decades of the Greek Republic (1820-60), comprising the personal papers of Pericles Argyropoulos and Konstantine Schines, some 1,600 pages, went to a London dealer for a Greek client at £12,420 (estimate £8,000-£10,000).

A delightful unpublished story written and illustrated by Edward Lear for Lady Susan Percy, starring Lear himself losing his hat on a windy day made £2,160 (estimate £1,200-£1,500) to J. F. Fleming, the New York dealer.

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10 St. Christopher's Place, London, W.1.

Legal win for Gilbert O'Sullivan

Gilbert O'Sullivan the pop singer won his case in the High Court yesterday for a fair share of the millions of pounds made by his records. He had been exploited by Mr Gordon Mills, his former manager, Mr Justice Marsden said. He awarded Mr O'Sullivan copyright of his songs and the master tapes of his records, together with costs unofficially estimated at £100,000.

Between 1970 and 1978, five Gilbert O'Sullivan single and seven long-playing records grossed an estimated £14.5m, from which Mr O'Sullivan received only about £500,000 before tax.

The judge set aside agreements made between Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Mills and his company, Management Agency and Music Ltd, as they were "an unreasonable restraint of trade".

The hospital has raised already the £3m from its trustees and industry needed to house the 18 clinical departments. But more money is needed to convert and equip the centre, £500,000 of which it hopes to raise immediately from the present appeal.

Under threat is the research into the treatment of cancer patients with myeloblastic leukaemia. The department has boosted the potential survival rate of patients with this disease from 5 to 50 per cent.

Shared training

□ A working party has recommended that some of the training of nurses and social workers who provide care for the mentally handicapped should be shared. It has not, as was hoped in some quarters, come out in favour of a single form of training.

The working party, composed of representatives from the three United Kingdom nursing councils and the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work, has agreed a plan of action to cooperate and shared training. It is proposed that students for the registration as a nurse for mentally handicapped people (RNMS) and the Certificate in Social Service (CSS) would join together for theoretical and practical learning where the position of training centres made it feasible.

In *Cooperation in Training*, the working group says: "By learning together for part of their courses, students will cultivate the mutual respect and understanding necessary for closer cooperation between health and social services in promoting improved services for mentally handicapped people."

A completely new form of combined training, however, has been ruled out. The working group saw this as a threat to the identity of the two professions.

Back in print

Machine room workers at the Eric Bearne printing works, Liverpool, have resumed normal working, pending a meeting about their pay dispute on Monday. An unofficial strike by 168 men last week halted production of *The Sunday Telegraph* and *News of the World* magazines.

Benefit ruling

A teacher who voluntarily took advantage of an early retirement scheme was not entitled to unemployment benefit for the first six weeks after leaving his job, the Court of Appeal in London held yesterday. Permission to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

Law report, page 29

BR bargains

From May 17 British Rail is to run an all first-class overnight train in each direction between London and Scotland with single fares starting at £12 — one third of the ordinary first class single fare. This is to win back passengers lost to coach travel.

Inquiry sought

Mr William Homeward, Labour MP for Kettering, yesterday called for an inquiry into the safety record at the British Steel Corporation plant at Corby, Northamptonshire, where three demolition workers have been killed in the last 15 months.

Funerals halted

Crematorium staff in Liverpool voted yesterday to join the strike by the city's gravediggers from May 17. They said they will honour funerals up to date, but are not taking new bookings.

Farmers fear a return to the wilderness

From John Young
Agriculture Correspondent
Stoke St Gregory

"Not so long ago a farmer could be evicted for not doing his job properly", Mr Dick House (right) recalls. "Now it seems they want to penalize us for doing it too well."

"We are being asked to become bad farmers," he claims, gesturing towards the flat pasture on which his family have kept cattle for generations. "If they have their way, I can see this area reverting within five years to what it used to be, nothing but rushes."

"They" in this case are the Nature Conservancy Council which recently announced its intention to designate 2,500 acres of West Sedgemoor, part of the so-called Somerset Levels, as a site of special scientific interest (SSSI).

It was a bold step and one which will provide a searching test of whether the Wildlife and Countryside Act, devised by conservationists as too feeble and by farmers as impracticable, can be made to work.

The farmers affected are bewildered and resentful. Mr Bert Betty, who was the first farmer to drain land on West Sedgemoor, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Agriculture, cannot believe that the



Luxury lavatory: People queuing outside Britain's first Automatic Public Toilet in Leicester Square, London, when it opened yesterday. The lavatory, for men and women, is open 24 hours a day and costs 10p to use. It is the first of three of similar design to be sited in the West End for a six-month experiment.

Falklands dominates voting today

By Richard Evans and David Walker

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Millions of voters in England and Scotland go to the polls today in council elections dominated by events 8,000 miles away in the South Atlantic.

Having totally overshadowed the political campaigning which has preceded the poll, the Falklands crisis looks set to play a significant role in deciding the political make-up of many of the 183 authorities where voting takes place.

Opinion polls have indicated a considerable strengthening in Conservative support, coinciding with the Falklands issue, but yesterday party managers were uncertain what effect the destruction of HMS Sheffield and a Sea Harrier would have on voters' intentions.

In London and the Home Counties in particular, Britain's dispute with Argentina appears to be uppermost in electors' minds, rather than local issues, and the outcome of the contests will be seen in some quarters as a public verdict on the Government's handling of the crisis.

In many authorities only a third of sitting members are up for election, but there are "all out" fights in 32 boroughs, nine Scottish regional councils and 10 metropolitan districts, including Manchester and Birmingham.

The Social Democratic-Liberal Alliance is fielding candidates in nearly all the 4,890 seats being contested and their participation has been promised, until international events intervened, to make those elections the most fascinating for decades. The alliance, fighting its first nationwide campaign, has suffered more from the lack of press attention given to the elections than its established political opponents, and in several areas strong predictions by SDP activists have been whittled down to hopes of gaining a few seats.

The Conservatives, defending gains made four years ago at a time of acute Labour unpopularity, have fought deliberately low-key campaigns and had feared heavy losses until the recent revival in their fortunes. They are hoping their concerted attack on "spendthrift" Labour authorities combined with the patriotic fervour will be to their advantage.

Uneasy anniversary

Year after Sands death Maze protests continue

From Craig Seton, Belfast

A year after Robert Sands died on the 66th day of his hunger strike in the Maze Prison H-blocks in Northern Ireland, more than 200 republican prisoners are still protesting over the "five demands" that led to a blanket and dirty protest that brought the hunger strike into world headlines over several months, are a thing of the past.

The republican movement says that 260 to 270 are still protesting about four of the five demands which were never granted: free association, no prison work, segregation from other prisoners and specific demands about the receipt of parcels from families and full visits from outside.

The hunger strike which initially became a potent weapon in the hands of the Provisional IRA led to only one of the demands being granted: the right of prisoners to wear their own clothing.

Eleven members of the security forces have died this year, the last this week when an RUC constable was shot dead and an unarmed woman constable seriously injured in Londonderry.

The police and the Army prepared last night to cope with any rioting or more serious incidents which could have been expected on the anniversary of Sands's death.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, dealt a final campaign blow yesterday when, summing up his party's message, he said: "Can you afford not to vote Conservative?"

In normal circumstances Labour would be looking to take advantage of the customary mid-term slump in support for a Conservative government and regain control in authorities lost last time, as well as making gains elsewhere. The party is likely to do better in the north of England and Scotland, where the effects of unemployment have been particularly harsh.

Todays contests involve five million voters in London, nearly four million in Scotland and several million more in a mixture of districts scattered throughout England.

Manchester looks certain to remain in Labour hands but Tory officials in the West Midlands said yesterday that its law and order campaign in Birmingham should, together with the Falklands factor, allow Conservatives to take control of the city.

□ Voters in Wandsworth, south-west London, go to the polls with their rates uncollected; their bins only partly

emptied and unable to contact the town hall to complain because its telephone operators are on strike.

A dispute between the Conservative-controlled council and refuse collection workers which began two weeks ago over the council's intention to invite tenders from private firms for refuse collection, has widened into what the National and Local Government Officers Association yesterday called chaos.

Mr Christopher Chepe, the council leader, called the strike a political act.

□ Five Conservative members of the Greater London Council were yesterday nominated to succeed Sir Horace Cutler as leader of the party at County Hall in opposition to Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the Labour leader of the council.

They are: Mr Richard Brew, the deputy Tory leader, and Mr Alan Greenross, the party's transport expert, Mr Peter Black, Mr Cyril Taylor and Mr Robert Vigars.

Correction

□ The total of Scottish National Party candidates for Scottish regional councils, given as 1,309 on May 3 should have been 269.

Longer airport inquiry

By Hugh Clayton
Environment correspondent

The Government announced yesterday that the final stage of the public inquiry into the siting of London's third airport will not start until next year. It was the first official statement of the expected length of the proceedings since they began six months ago, and exceeded estimates by observers that the sessions would be finished by Christmas.

The Department of the Environment announced yesterday that examination of the case for building a fifth terminal at Heathrow airport would probably begin in mid-January at a hotel overlooking the runways. It is unlikely that Mr Graham Eyre, the inquiry inspector, will make a recommendation to ministers before the next general election campaign is in full swing.

Most of this year will be taken up by the rest of the British Airports Authority's case for turning Stansted airport in Essex into the third airport. But Mr Eyre is also to consider the case for building the airport at Maplin sands.

The inquiry will also be halted for a few days to make room for a short separate inquiry into the fate of a medieval moat near the present Stansted runway.

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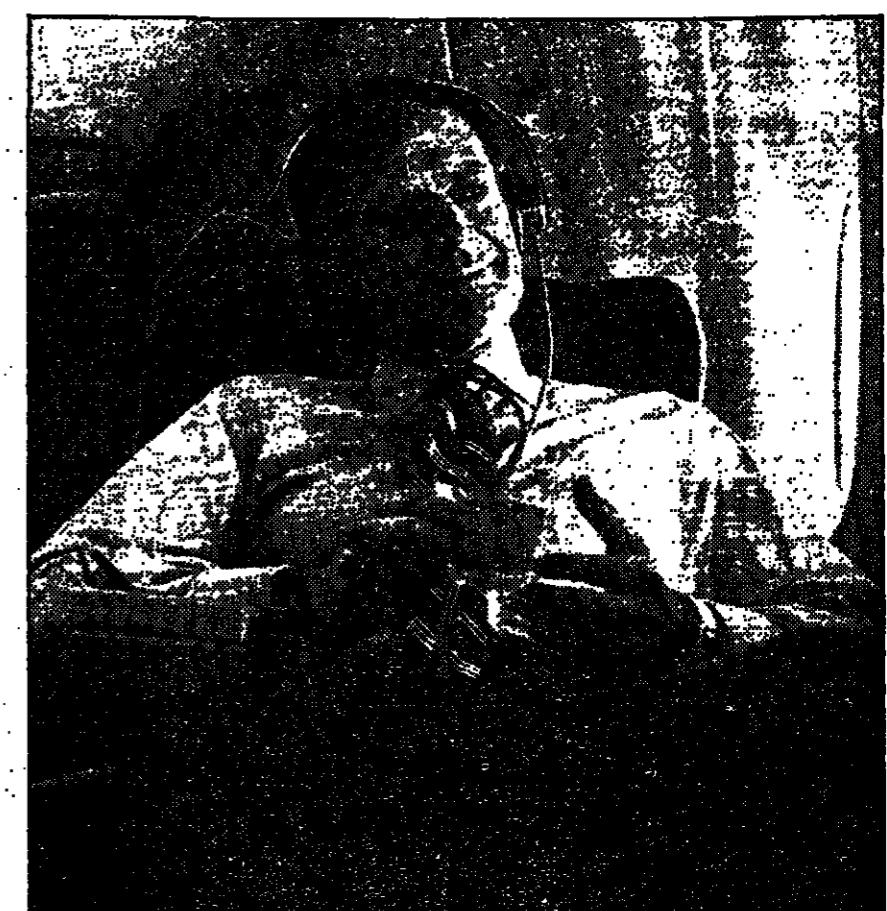
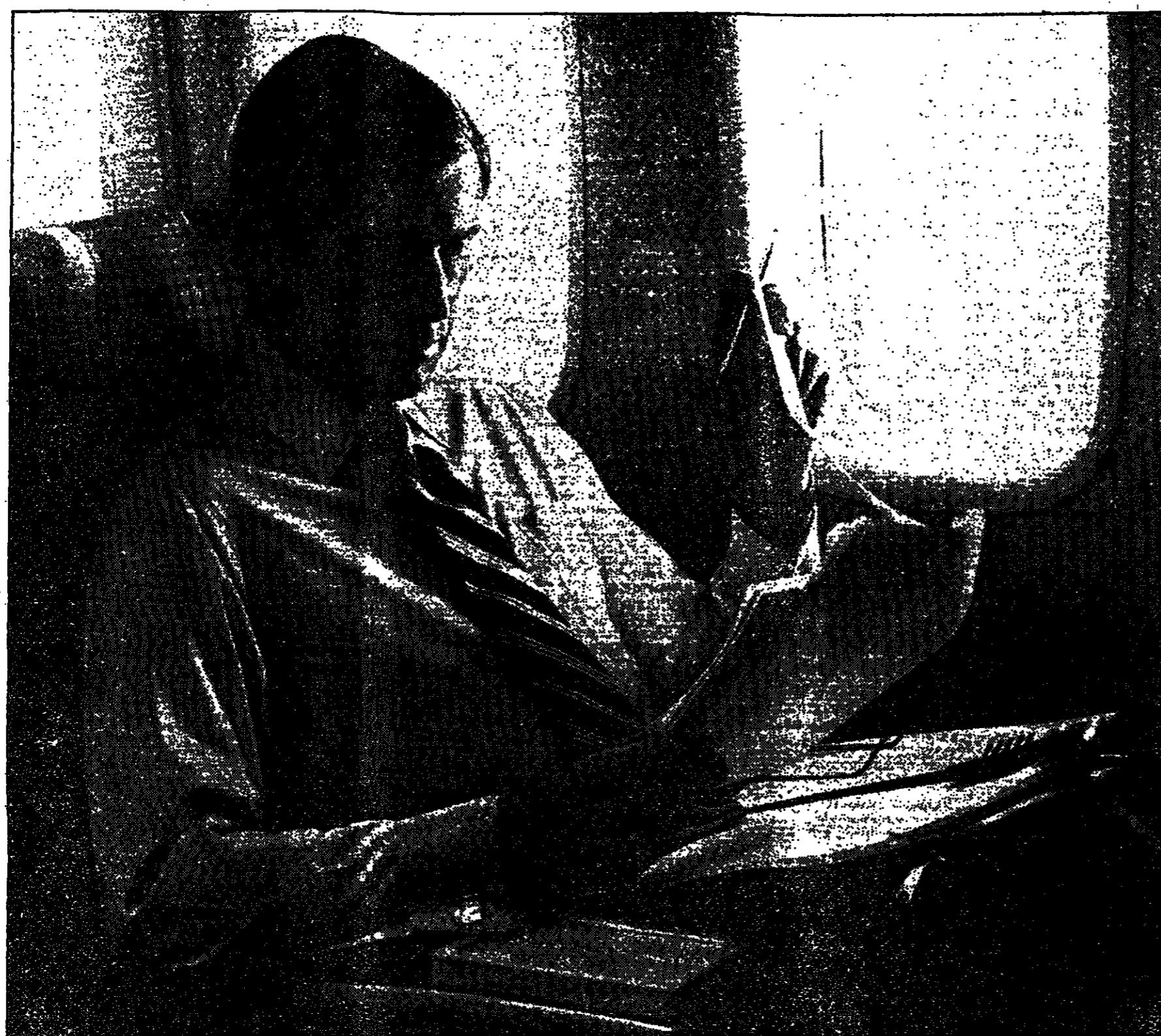
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Vatican replies to 'unity' report

B. Clifford Leader
Religious Affairs
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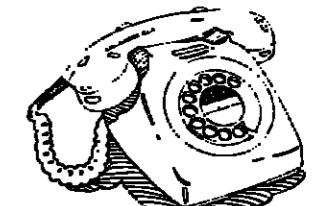
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Use of live rounds in Gaza defended

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, May 5

The toll of violent deaths in the occupied West Bank continues to mount. Four Arab teenagers were killed last night in a mysterious explosion in a gully near Jenin, while a 14-year-old girl died today in a Jerusalem hospital after being shot in the head on Sunday, apparently by an Israeli civilian.

An army officer in the Jenin refugee camp in the Gaza Strip fired live ammunition this morning to break up a demonstration. The military command said shots were fired at the rioters' legs to repel a mob attack on a small military position in the camp. The Israelis said two Arabs were injured.

Arab sources said six young men and a young woman were hurt.

The independent Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* claimed today that casualty figures in demonstrations were higher in the past month and a half than in the previous 15 years of Israeli occupation — nine Arabs and two Israelis killed and 30 soldiers, 19 Arabs, 16 Israeli civilians and four foreigners injured. Today's toll is not included.

In Jerusalem today, Labour Party deputies criticised Lieutenant General Rafael Eitan, the chief of staff for the use of live ammunition against demonstrators. He replied that this was done only as a last resort after warning shots, tear gas and rubber bullets failed.

Critics said it was curious that bullets aimed at people's legs should have killed them. They said civil disobedience had escalated since the Israelis installed a civil administration on November 1 to replace the military. The general claimed the unrest was provoked by agents from abroad on orders from the PLO in Beirut and Damascus.

Military sources said the cause of the blast that killed four Arabs in Yabud, near Jenin, was being investigated. Arab villagers said the area had been a Jordanian minefield. Israeli Army investigators searched the homes of the victims and summoned families for interrogation.

Tension rose in Nablus where Israeli troops set up a position on the roof of a soap factory owned by the prominent Toukan family. Local residents said they counted 500 sandbags raised to the roof.

Mr Sharon, the Defence Minister, visited the position today and worried Arabs suspect it is a nucleus of an Israeli settlement. They said they were reminded of a case in Hebron where troops set up a position on the roof of a building. The building was later turned over to Jewish militants for settlement.

A member of Mr Sharon's staff scoffed at the idea.

Prisoners of conscience



Indonesia: Alex Irwan

By Caroline Moorehead

A third-year sociology student at the University of Indonesia is in detention in Jakarta in connexion with a lecture banned by the authorities last September.

Mr Alex Irwan, aged 21, was a member of the student senate of the Social Sciences Faculty which invited the well-known Indonesian writer Pramoeda Ananta Toer (a former political prisoner for 14 years) to give a talk. As the meeting was about to take place, a formal notice demanded that it be cancelled. The student senate refused.

Mr Irwan, together with three other students, was subsequently expelled from the university. During October 1981 the four were twice taken into detention and interrogated. The university Rector's expulsion order had stated that he considered that their activities in "arranging the distorted discussion" had "jeopardized his authority and breached established campus discipline".

The Jakarta military command decided nonetheless to release them "unconditionally after they... proved that their conduct did not obstruct the state constitution and ideology". Neither Mr Irwan, nor his three student friends were, however, reinstated.

In December he was again arrested. By this time Mr Joesoef Ishak, publisher of Pramoeda's first two novels, written while he was a political prisoner on Buru Island, was also in detention — in connexion with the same banned student meeting. But although Mr Ishak has since been released, Mr Irwan and a second student, Mr Raffendi Djamin, rearrested at the same time, have not been.

Head of nuclear power project killed by ETA

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, May 5

In its first act of direct, violent confrontation with the Basque home-rule Government, the ETA secessionist movement today murdered the chief engineer of a nuclear power plant under construction in Bilbao, just as they killed his predecessor less than 16 months ago.

The attack occurred on the morning when representatives of the home-rule Government were to sign documents in the regional capital, Vitoria, transferring responsibility for the operation of the nuclear plant from the privately owned Iberduero Power Company for the past 25 years, was the father of four children.

He had taken over the functions of chief engineer at the nearly completed plant last month, after more than a year in which the construction work was virtually halted as a result of the fatal shooting of his predecessor, Señor Jose Maria Ryan, by the ETA on January 25, 1981.

Terrorist opposition to the Lemozin plant was also expressed over the past few years in the bombing of scores of transformer installations owned by the Iberduero company, mostly in the Basque region.

A communiqué issued by the Secretariat of State for Information after the ministers' meeting said: "The Government, maintaining its firm will to continue with the plan drawn up for the Lemozin nuclear station, and so do the institutions of the Government of Euzkadi (the Basque country), which set up on this day, after the death of Señor Pascual Mugica, the management corporation for the nuclear power plant."

Peking awaits Bush visit with optimism

From David Bonavia, Peking, May 5

The impending visit to China by Mr George Bush, the American Vice-President, takes place at a time when a measure of cautious optimism has been apparent among American and Chinese officials over their relations.

Despite the serious problems associated with the quarrel between Peking and Washington over Taiwan, some of the tension was taken out of the air last month when China did not reduce the level of diplomatic relations because of President Reagan's sale to Taiwan of military spare parts estimated at \$35m (£21m).

China has continued to call American sales of arms to Taiwan a "time bomb" in relations with the United States. But it is extremely reluctant to reduce relations to charge d'affaires level as a mark of its displeasure. However, it is still not ruled out.

Chinese officials have time and again emphasized that, serious though the dispute over arms sales is, it remains a problem of bilateral relations which is capable of solution.

Mr Zhao is, however, known as a tough and acerbic negotiator.

■ Mr Han Nianlong, China's veteran Deputy Foreign Minister, has been removed in the latest stage of the Government reshuffle aimed at trimming the country's sprawling bureaucracy (Reuters reports).

Since then, however, the White House seems to have become somewhat more aware of the strength of Chinese feelings on this matter, and has apparently shelved the idea of selling certain advanced new military aircraft to Taiwan.

Mr Bush's current mission is cosmetically arranged to

avoid the impression that he is coming to Canossa, falling as it does after other visits he has been making in the Pacific region.

Even if he makes no substantial progress in his talks here, he may be able to persuade America's allies that the situation is well in hand. Japan and the Nato countries have been urging the Americans to remove this logjam in their relations with China, even though those countries could profit to some extent if Sino-American trade were affected.

So far this has not happened, and indeed China would be hard-pushed to feed its people without American grain sales.

The Chinese Government may be able to negotiate a little more flexibly since the recent big reshuffle, which has increased the manoeuvring room of Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, with regard to conservative elements in the Communist Party and Army who may be critical of the way the Taiwan issue has been handled.

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■ Mr Han Nianlong, China's veteran Deputy Foreign Minister, has been removed in the latest stage of the Government reshuffle aimed at trimming the country's sprawling bureaucracy (Reuters reports).

According to the New China news agency, Mr Han, who held the post since 1964, had been replaced a senior Deputy Foreign Minister by Mr Wu Xueqian, until now deputy director of the Communist Party's International Liaison Department.

Double voting charges in Indonesian election

From David Watts, Jakarta, May 5

The Government Golkar Party had a comfortable lead tonight as provisional results from the Indonesian general elections continued to come from the archipelago and appeared to have won by a narrow margin in the capital.

The Jakarta victory is likely to be a controversial if not pyrrhic success, since it reverses the situation at the last election when the opposition Muslim United Development Party (PPP) won the capital and it runs against the indication of the large, enthusiastic crowds that have attended Muslim rallies.

Thousands of PPP voters, meanwhile, had been deprived of the forms for them to go to the polls. Mr Lubis said the PPP had had complaints not only from Jakarta but from Medan, Pandang, Ujung Pandan and Semerang.

Significant numbers of votes would be affected, but it was not possible to say to what extent it might affect the results of the election. Full results are not expected till June.

"In 1982 this double voting has been more widespread and more numerous than it was at the last election in 1977," Mr Lubis said.

"I'm not accusing the Government of rigging the vote," said Mr Lubis, "But the way the results have come out there seems to be a certain purpose behind it." He said it was difficult to predict the emotions of PPP followers and warned the electoral commission that each elector had to present before voting. He

said that thousands of Golkar supporters in Medan and Jakarta had been issued two sets of the forms enabling them to vote twice.

There are two types of electoral form—one for those voting in their own area of residence, and a second form for voters who happen to be travelling (a spelling mistake). Some Government supporters, he said, had voted on both forms, something which would not be apparent to PPP observers watching the actual voting.

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"See? We're even watering it!"

St Lucia back in its groove

From Jeremy Taylor
Port of Spain, May 5

Monday's general election in St Lucia put a decisive end to nearly three years of flirtation with political change and returned the island's 120,000 people to the familiar leadership of the late 1960s and 1970s. The United Workers' Party of Mr John Compton, the former Prime Minister, was swept back to power with 14 of the 17 seats in the House of Assembly.

Mr Compton was Prime Minister for 15 years until he was defeated by the St Lucia Labour Party soon after independence from Britain in 1979. He is expected to continue his pro-Western foreign policy and to concentrate on restoring the island's economic growth.

The SLP, which held power for most of the last three years, managed to hold only two of the 12 seats it won in 1979, while the left-wing Progressive Labour Party of Mr George Odium, which broke away from the SLP last year, took the remaining seat.

Mr Compton is faced with the task of halting St Lucia's economic decline and boosting its crucial tourist and banana industries. He can expect some American support; his victory will gratify Washington.

Guerrilla dies



Rome. — Giorgio Vale, one of Italy's most-wanted right-wing urban guerrillas, died in hospital after being shot during a police raid on his Rome hideout. Signor Vale, aged 21, was suspected of being involved in a string of killings and the Bologna station bombing which killed 85 people.

Six up Everest

Karmandu.—Six Soviet climbers, ascending in pairs, had reached the summit of Mount Everest by yesterday. Valentin Ivanov, of Moscow, and Sergei Yefimov of Sverdlovsk, and two Ukrainians, Sergej Beeshev, of Kherkov and Mikhail Turkevich, of Donetsk, scaled its 29,000ft peak while Eduard Myslovsky, (Moscow) and Vladimir Balyberdin (Leningrad) were descending. The Ukrainians, whose job was to supply food and oxygen to the latter pair, decided to go to the summit themselves.

Last round-up

Kanab, Utah — Sinbad, the horse used by President Reagan when he hosted the Western television series *Death Valley Days*, is dead — killed by a bolt of lightning at the age of 20. Sinbad was retired from show business several years ago and spent his time munching alfalfa and entertaining children.

Doctors stabbed

Stockholm. — Two doctors were stabbed to death and four other people seriously wounded when a patient requesting treatment went berserk in the Fruängen medical centre here. A 35-year-old Yugoslav, was caught by a taxi driver outside the hospital and them as soon as they had all taken into police custody.

Marin was quoted by *De Tijd* as saying that the government patrol was waiting for the television team, and opened fire on them and on the guerrillas who net them as soon as they had all come within shooting range.

Sudan in difficulties

Gaddafi blamed for Nimeiry's troubles

From Charles Harrison, Khartum

Political problems resulting from rivalries in his own Army, bickering and ineffective leadership from the ruling Sudan Socialist Union, and conflicting demands from the south for the creation of additional regions, are only some of the difficulties now facing President Jaafar al-Nimeiry.

They are made more serious by an economic situation which experts describe as disastrous, caused by a high level of imports, lack of efficiency in industries and services, and an enormous debt burden.

Yet President Nimeiry, who has been in power since 1969 — by far the longest term served by any Sudanese leader — insists that the recurring crises are not crucial to either his own survival or to the continuation of Sudan's pro-Western policy. "I can remove my deputy, and have as many deputies as I want", he told me. "If any deputy is not working according to my plan, I will take him out".

Similarly, he plays down the importance of the riots which broke out earlier this year after sugar prices, always a hot political issue, had been raised as part of a new economic recovery programme. He says the student agitation against the sugar price increase was a result of Libyan agitation. Although there is no evidence of this, the student body is certainly open to influence from Muslim fundamentalists, including Libyans.

President Nimeiry is preoccupied by the alleged Libyan threat, although even some members of his own Government do not see it as a serious affair. His opponents say it is used as a diversion to cover up some of the Sudan's own problems, particularly the rising prices of sugar, bread and other commodities.

An exhibition of captured arms smuggled in from Libya by Sudanese dissidents, who were allegedly supplied with them by the Libyan authorities, has been given wide publicity in Khartum. But the few mortars, machine guns, rifles, grenades and booby-trapped portable radios could constitute no more than a nuisance.

There are worrying signs that the recent link-up between Libya, Ethiopia and South Yemen is being used to encourage opposition in the Sudan. Libya finance has

been going to Sudanese exiles in Ethiopia, for instance, and the hopeful signs of Sudan-Ethiopia cooperation which appeared in 1980, when the two leaders exchanged visits, have not continued.

Mr Mohamed Mirghani, the Sudanese Foreign Minister, says however, that there are signs of a better understanding with Ethiopia, especially at the administrative level along the frontier.

Dr Magharief said the main support for the overthrow of Colonel Gaddafi comes from inside Libya, and that clandestine radio broadcasts will soon be beamed into Libya from other unspecified places to arouse more opposition.

The next Organization of African Unity summit conference is due to be held in Tripoli in August, in which Colonel Gaddafi would be welcomed, by custom, as chairman of the OAU. But President Nimeiry says he does not believe the Tripoli summit will take place — presumably because of the strong opposition to Colonel Gaddafi inside Africa. But he did not suggest how that might happen, and would not say whether he himself would attend if the summit goes ahead as planned.

The Sudan is firmly in the Western camp, and is accepting substantial military and economic support from the United States. This has brought criticism from some other Arab states, and is partly responsible for Colonel Gaddafi's opposition.

The complicated question of a division of the present southern Sudan is far from settled, although President Nimeiry has, for the present, overruled proposals for the creation of three separate regions in the south to decentralize government services.

But the elections now taking place for a new president of the Southern Region will revive this issue, and it will continue to demand attention. Members of the Dinka tribe, the largest in the south, want to retain one region, but other tribes say they want to end Dinka domination.

In the meantime, the lengthy queues at petrol stations, and the staggering black-market prices for petrol in some remote places, are evidence of the Sudan's shortage of foreign exchange.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that the problem was under careful study and emphasized that the recent severe tightening of resettlement programmes resulted in new arrivals having greatly reduced resettlement prospects.

Mr Lewis Davies, the Hongkong Secretary for Security, pledged that a strong police presence would be maintained.

It is expected that the refugees who made their second escape to the vacated camp will soon be returned to the Kaitak North camp.

Hard-labour punishment has been proposed for arrested refugees.

Africans reject Namibia scheme

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg, May 5

Black Africa's "front-line" states have rejected as sterile the current Western attempt to secure a negotiated settlement of the Namibia question, and declared that it should be set aside in favour of a "Geneva-type" conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

This statement — the most serious setback for the Western negotiating effort since it began towards the end of last year — was issued after a meeting yesterday in Dar Es Salaam, the Tanzanian capital, of "front-line" foreign ministers and Mr Sam Nujoma, the President of Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organization).

The meeting was convened at the request of the Swapo leader, whose guerrilla forces have been fighting a bush war against the South African Army since 1966 for Namibia's independence.

Africans reject Namibia scheme

Michael Heseltine
Minister for
African Affairs

Guru of the baths

An English Temper
Essays on Education, Culture & Communications
By Richard Hoggart
(Chatto & Windus, £5.50)

Up, the road from Goldsmith's College, South London, is a public bath, "lavatorially-tiled" and smelling of chlorine, very bleak-looking, very shabby". One of its frequent visitors is the College Warden and cultural prophet of the '50s and '60s, Richard Hoggart. Whether Mr Hoggart, adult-educationalist, ex-United Nations bureaucrat and author of the twenty-five-year-old best seller, *The Uses of Literacy*, attends the baths for research or refreshment is not stated. What he finds there, however, is "an overweight attendant — 'what our right-wing press likes to call a yobbo or layabout' who on one occasion grabbed the good girl and drew his attention to the prettiness of the Edwardian wrought-iron roof.

"His vocabulary was massively inadequate to what he was trying to say," writes Hoggart, "the conscious sense of the amazing thing that was happening inside him almost non-existent. This story underlines once again that we must resist the constant pressure to undervalue others, especially those that do not fit into our comfortable artistic world, also our duty not to romanticise the situations such people are in."

In this book of nineteen essays, mostly written since 1975 — Hoggart has always to tread this same difficult path between rejecting and romanticizing the achievements of the popular

culture he did so much to promote. It makes a brave piece of retrospection.

He faces up to the most manifest horrors in the 200-acre university campuses that have become the middle-class equivalent of the now-disgraced tower-blocks, the polytechnics where mass-media courses have been judged more "relevant" than Shakespeare. His UNESCO work in the early '70s has cast an unkindly blight over his faith in the cure-all powers of communication. He still has hankernings after the concept of some industrialized society, but except in his local bath house reality wins through.

An influential thread that passes through all his work is distaste for the convoluted jargon used by politicians and PR men to gull their working-class victims. In a sharp study of Matthew Arnold as a schools inspector he compares approvingly the clear short sentences of an 11-year-old state school girl with the latinate periods of a boy in private education.

The best that can be said for Hoggart's own prose style is that it stands in our oral rather than written tradition. In one of many remarkable sentences, he offers two dashes, a parenthesis within the dashes, a semi-colon within the parenthesis and some final emphasizing italics to help clear the confusion. Neither for its content nor style can *An English Temper* be called a joy to read; but the thoughts of a sincere idealist — however muffled by experience — repay some small, sad study.

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Look out in the slips. Watercolour of A Young Cricketer by William Henry Hunt, always esteemed by artists, critics, and now collectors, but one of the most seriously underdocumented of English nineteenth-century painters. The omission is now repaired by this full Life and Work with a catalogue by Sir John Witt (Barrie & Jenkins, £35).

Sir John Witt

Down with cads

The Gentleman in Trollope
Individuality and Moral Conduct
By Shirley Robin Letwin
(Macmillan, £15)

The Gentleman is an obsolescent beast in our egalitarian age. It is difficult to use the word without pomposity or sarcasm. Why, the anti-elitist embarrassment has seeped down even to our public lavatories, which are labelled Men rather than Gents. The title of this book implies that it is a narrow work of Lit Crit. On the contrary, it is an unfashionably broad work of philosophy, arguing that the concept of the English Gentleman is a forgotten and better morality.

Dr Letwin suggests that the English Gentleman has a

more sensible approach. He is an individual who appreciates the differences in other individuals. He does not presume to have a direct telephone line to God or History, nor hold himself responsible for setting the world to rights. He sees mortal existence as a gift which men have a duty to enjoy. His attitudes to work, money, class, sex, and the position of women were saner than those of the self-divided man. Shirley Letwin uses Trollope for her field work to find specimens of the vanishing species. She could just as well have used Jane Austen or Fielding. It is not a matter of gender. By her standards the most perfect gentleman in Trollope's novels is Madame Max Goeler, and her antipode, the most utter cad, is Lizzie Eustace, audderless and unable to respect any limits or order.

This is entertaining, provocative, unfashionable stuff, even if Shirley Letwin as an American is more impressed by the English Gent than those of us to the mannerism born. I dare say that even that paragon of creation, the Gentleman, had something to learn from such prophets of our divided century as Marx and Freud. But even if you do not buy the moral philosophy entire, the book is an engaging chance to meet again all those diverse living gents and cads in Trollope.

Philip Howard

Of This Our Time
A Journalist's Story 1905-1950
By Tom Hopkinson
(Hutchinson, £8.95)

As a 1940s kid I read *Picture Post*, along with *Everybody's Illustrated* and *John Bull*, while waiting for a short back-and-sides. Because the magazine seemed so demotic, I had always assumed that its "legendary" editor, Tom Hopkinson, was a man of the people, a gritty figure from oop north, perhaps. His use of the matey "Tom" supported this impression. The best anagram I can make of his name — "NO! TO MINK SHOP!" — reinforces the anti-luxurious working-class image, though admittedly of the ennobled Sir Tom Hopkinson — "I'M TO SINK POOR NHS" — has a more reactionary twist.

So it was a surprise to discover that Hopkinson was the son of a archaeologist who became Archdeacon of Westminster; that he had a public school and Oxford education; and that he is diverted by social trivia (his Oxford scout, William, "knew 26 different ways to fold a napkin.")

Yet my mental picture of Hopkinson was not wholly arid. For a start, he does come from oop north: he was born in Manchester. And he is rather grim. He does not

lack humour, but under everything lies moral conscience (and why not?) and something more fey which causes him to flit with the notion of reincarnation.

A buck-you-uppa note sounds throughout the book, as if we all needed our Morales boozing as in the dark days of *Picture Post*. (Perhaps we do.) And a Sammlies self-made-man consciousness comes through in the chapter headings: "Ladder of Learning"; "First Steps on a Long Road"; "Success" — as though he were the hero of an Arnold Bennett or Howard Spring novel. The passages of self-congratulation (including laudatory quotations about him) can be forgiven, partly because he scrupulously records his mistakes and failures too, and partly because he has a lot to be immodest about.

The book perks up as it goes along. The first chapters reflect his dreary childhood. His parson father was oppressively saintly, and an upbringing by that sort can be more warping than by a carefree rogue. By the second page, Hopkinson has already told of two untruths into which he was forced by father's piety. The odour of sanctity must have stunk out of the house.

Hopkinson is reticent about his private life, the brusque coverage of his

various marriages reminded me of the parody of Anthony Powell in a *New Statesman* competition: "At the party I met Elise, to whom I recalled, I had been married." But his professional life is well recalled. Like John Wain in the model autobiography, *Springingly Running*, he does not just select and record incidents, he makes it clear what he learned from them.

He was obviously a good, decisive editor, and he passed the final test of integrity with honours when Edward Hulton (to whom he is more than fair) sacked him because Hopkinson insisted on publishing atrocity pictures of "our side" in the Korean war. That moral imperative again.

Picture Post did not long survive him. It has sunk into the mulch, of "Smiling Through" nostalgia, with Dame Myra Hess and Sir Tom Conville. Sir Tom convinces me that it was not television that killed it off, but by bringing the living reality into our homes, television ensured that it could never be revived. How doomed the formula is today was proved by the failure of Sir James Goldsmith's heavily pictorial *NOW!* magazine, which even the logo was a coarsened crib of *Picture Post*'s.

Bevis Hillier

Buck-you-uppa through pix

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TEXAS

"Think of Texas as a country": Texans often tell strangers. The advice is superfluous; there is no other way to think of it. Texas is bigger than any European country except the USSR; the whole United Kingdom would fit into it almost three times; it stretches halfway from the Mexican to the Canadian border, and a third of the distance from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It is 245 times as big as Rhode Island, the smallest of the 50 states.

Where legend lives in the good daily life

Everything in Texas is big, in fact and legend, until the two are indistinguishable. One discovers that one governor, Mr. Richard B. Hubbard, weighed more than 400 pounds. Why not? It's Texas. When I lived there, a paid obituary in a cattle journal announced the death of Mr. Brankala, a bull of more than 2,000 lbs, a cross between an Angus and a Brahman which had left 3,000 ampules of semen. By any Texas standard, it did not seem prodigious.

Texans had been renowned and disliked for boasting of their bigness, until one of the best known writers among them said: "Texans should learn silence". But this must be understood of Texas: the closeness of legend to fact, and of fact to legend, is striking and telling. The popular concept of the Texan, as one Texan historian says, still has vitality and meaning in daily life. In spite of the relentless pressures of national integration and homogenization, Texans are still regarded by themselves and others as people with a difference.

Texans even now talk of the United States as if it were a separate nation in which Texas is joined only by a treaty of convenience. They have some justification in both history and law. Texas joined the United States very much on its own terms. When it was admitted to the Union, it was given the right, if it should ever wish to do so in the future, to divide itself into more than one state. By turning themselves into five states, each the size of New

York, Texans could have 10 instead of two United States senators.

Of more immediate importance is the control of its public lands is much more in its own hands and not those of Washington than is the case in other states. This has encouraged the obsessive passion for land speculation that has been a persistent feature of Texan life. Given the size of the land and the scale of much of the ranching and farming, this speculation had always been the root of both the fact and the legend of the Texans' easy fortunes. The get-rich-quick Texan was a legend long before the oil gushed.

The discovery of the oil only magnified the speculative possibilities in land which was already rich in timber and crops and cattle. That it made huge fortunes overnight for so many people was again not a new phenomenon in Texan life. Even before Spindletop blew its black gold out of the ground, the land itself had made the Texan of fact and legend: the confident and free-swinging entrepreneur.

Wealth is not regarded in Texas as a commodity to conserve. The Texan does not think of himself merely as a custodian. As an individual, he used it for a good and extravagant life. (When a Texan talks of the good life, as he is apt to do, one can see and touch the things which make it good.) As a businessman, he uses it to make yet more by calculated risks. The millionaires who import snow from the Rockies for their parties indulge in no less

expansive schemes in their businesses.

In a state whose people live more by plunder than any comparable number of people anywhere else in the modern world, it would be an invitation only to disappointment and even to cynicism to expect either its political or its social life to be virtuous. A Texan wrote to his mother in 1836 as a Texan might still write: "Mother, I am afraid the way from Texas to heaven has never been blazed out."

Texans do not only plunder their own land. To them it is part of their treaty rights to plunder the rest of the United States. They plundered the federal government during the New Deal more than any other state, and they show their gratitude: driving from Houston to San Antonio you pass through a town appropriately called New Deal. But it is now dying, bypassed by the expressway.

For there is more now, elsewhere, for the Texans to plunder. For several years now they have plundered the U.S. armed services, using the political clout that was perfected by Sam Rayburn and Lyndon Johnson, to bring army and air force bases to the state, and also huge and ever-multiplying contracts for its old and new but ever-expanding industries. The U.S. armed services, Texans are not unwilling to boast, is one of their cash crops.

It would be disillusioning to expect it to go to Texas and expect it to be non-violent. A visitor who noticed in the early days that its natural

death rate was low in comparison with other states, said that Texans made up for it by periodically practising mortal combat with each other so that Texas would lead the nation even in this. Texans are not now so quick to draw, yet the violent settlement of disputes is common.

The Texas Rangers now ride in cars, sometimes switching to boats and aircraft, but always with a saddle in the boot.

Yet with it all, these people with a difference are among the most attractive in America, and the difference counts. The long years of bloody encounters with the Mexicans, a civilized people, left a different mark than the encounters of other Americans with the Indians. They are also the only state which was an independent nation before it entered the Union. The ten years of the Republic of Texas still give them a unique identity.

For these and other reasons, as one Texan historian has recently said, they are frontiersmen still, but adjusted to the modern world in a unique way. One can meet no real Texans without finding them, as he says, adventurous, mobile, aggressive and adaptive; strongly individualistic and yet egalitarian; optimistic and utilitarian; volatile and chauvinistic, which spills into provincialism and race-arrogance.

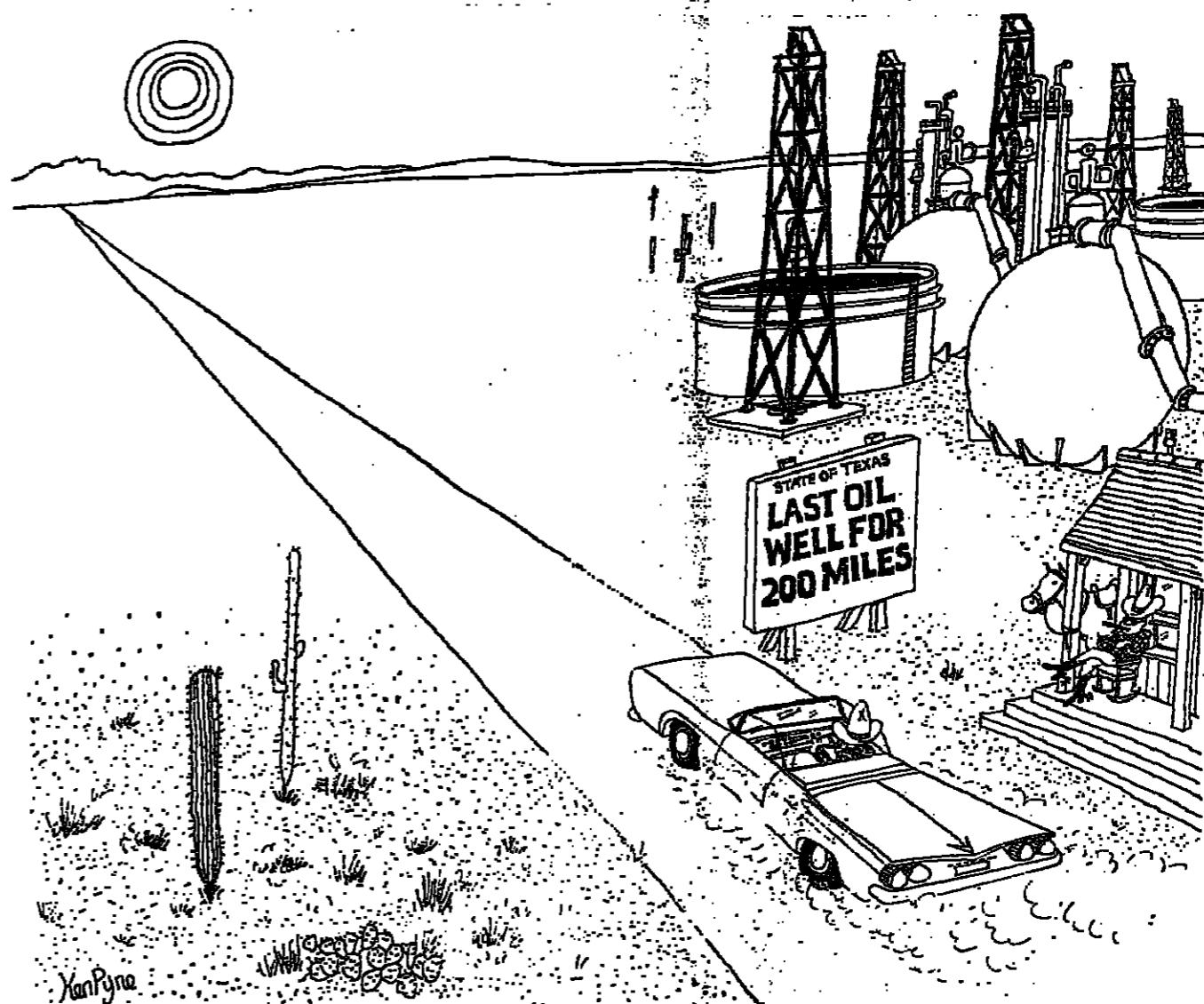
But the vitality is irresistible, and with the vitality is the generosity, so ready a generosity of their land. I once drove the whole length of it, from north to south, starting on ice-packed roads, arriving at last on subtropical gulf. There is the timber, all round

the great plains, in the middle is the hill country, a gently rolling land of goat ranches. Driving as the sun set on evening, white-tailed deer grazing everywhere, we suddenly found ourselves in the middle of a herd of buffalo.

In the Mercedes-Benz convertible with the top down, the south fork of the Guadalupe, clean and sparkling, flowing softly at the foot of a hill, there was only one thing to do. I burst into song with such tune as my voice can manage: "Give me a home where the buffalo roam, and the deer and the antelope play".

Everyone has their own Texas. Mine is there but also in the flaring petrochemical industry on the ship channel. Why have to choose in a state which is a country?

Henry Fairlie



As the gushers dry, what now?

have come into the area. Well over half of the most active independents in Houston were not there 15 years ago and between 40 and 45 per cent of them were not there 10 years ago.

These independents do not confine their activities to Texas. Sanders Oil and Gas, a small independent in Dallas, has acreage in the Abo trend in Chaves County, New Mexico. This is a "tight gas" area, which means that because the structures need to be fractured to gain production, a higher price can be obtained under government control — gas is still regulated — than from simpler structures. Sanders will actually be drilling more wells this year than last. Last year it could not get the acreage it wanted at the right price.

Refining — 25 per cent of the nation's capacity in the Houston and Gulf area — is in the doldrums and the petrochemical industry is depressed.

Major groups may still be spending more — Exxon's domestic capital and exploration spending this year is expected to rise 25 per cent to \$6,000m, but for many independents and oil service companies the boom, while not going into a bust, is slackening off.

As Mr. George Mitchell, of Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation, one of the larger, very successful independent groups put it: "You're going to see a pretty tough year, this year."

His company last year had an energy budget of \$450m. This year that has been cut to \$300m and may be cut again, depending what happens to interest rates. From 360 wells drilled in the continental United States last

year, Mitchell Energy will drill between 250 and 275 during 1982.

Refining — 25 per cent of the nation's capacity in the Houston and Gulf area — is in the doldrums and the petrochemical industry is depressed.

No one believes that the search for oil both worldwide and in the United States is going to tail off permanently.

"It's going to continue to grow through the rest of this century," said Mr. Bill Kistler, president of the Drilling Tools and Equipment group of Hughes Tool, the Houston-based rig equipment manufacturer. "We are going to have to continue to rely on oil and gas as the major energy source." Texas is really where the modern oil industry started, with the first discoveries of the giant fields that revolutionized its development.

Texas itself has since gone into a long-term decline as an oil producing region. Despite increased drilling over the last couple of years, production of oil and gas has continued to drop and reserves, if nothing new were found, would be exhausted in less than eight years.

Nevertheless, oil price deregulation, and the spurt in prices following the Iranian crisis, have made many marginal prospects profitable. Many new operators

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Banking: rapid growth despite a legal straitjacket

In little more than a decade banking in Texas has changed out of all recognition. Although Houston and Dallas are not, and probably never will be, financial centres of the type and scale seen in New York, London or Hong Kong, the area has quickly established itself as a place where it is essential for international banks to be.

Growth has been very fast indeed. Total bank deposits in Texas increased by 212 per cent to a total of \$52.205m between 1970 and the end of 1981 compared with an increase nationwide of 154 per cent to September last year.

Coupled with this growth has been a sharp rise in competition as foreign banks and domestic banks outside Texas have set up operations. So far Houston has taken the brunt of the expansion following the energy led growth of the city. There are now 64 foreign banks operating in some way in Houston compared with only 15 in 1976. But Dallas is seeing the impact too with five foreign banks and 18 non-Texas banks competing for business.

Texas has very restrictive banking laws. It operates under what is known as a unit banking system. This outlaws branch banking and means that each bank must be incorporated separately with its own board of directors.

In the minds of many people around the world the words "Houston" and "Mission Control" are synonymous. The city of Houston and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Lyndon B. Johnson Space Centre have been identified as a single entity almost since the space centre site was chosen in 1961 and their special relationship began.

The rest of the world shared in that sense of unity of identity when the first words spoken by men standing on the surface of the moon were radioed back to earth, beginning: "Houston, Tranquillity Base here — the Eagle has landed." Since that day in 1969 the Johnson Space Centre has given the world the visionary Mercury, Apollo and Gemini space programmes and now has responsibility for the Space Shuttle programme. "We excited the world," said Dr Christopher Kraft, the director of the Johnson Space Centre, who made his first trip to Houston when the 1,620-acre NASA site was still a cow pasture.

"At the time we moved here the city was in the throes of deciding whether rapid development was the answer or not. The atmosphere surrounding our programme contributed to the futuristic outlook of this particular area of the country and added enormous impetus to the development of Houston."

The Johnson Space Centre was officially opened in September 1963 with a mandate to design, develop and test spacecraft and associated systems for manned flight; to plan and conduct manned

Until 1970 the Texas banks did very little international business at all, but then First National in Dallas and Republic Bank, two of the four largest Texas banks, set up offices in London. "Then a change in the Texas banking laws allowed the forming of holding companies. The big banks' expanded rapidly by acquisition. Republic, for example, has more than 30 banks in its group and International, which includes the National, now in Dallas, more than 50. The ten largest bank holding companies now own about 350 banks and control almost 55 per cent of the deposits in the state.

The Texas banks were able to expand with an economy increase in employment between 1970 and 1981, an explosion of new construction and a boom during the last couple of years when the rest of the US stagnated. This expansion has allowed them to take on increased international business and to compete with the influx of foreign and US domestic banks.

A change in the US federal banking laws had by 1980 allowed non-Texas banks to conduct international loan business from offices in the state. Earlier they had to rely on representative offices with the business placed with their headquarters. New banks have moved in rapidly

and are aggressively looking for new accounts. "Local businessmen would much rather deal with their local bank or what they perceive to be their local bank," said Mr Harry Folk, who runs the Manufacturers Hanover operation set up last July.

The competition is greatest with large American and international business, but it is also growing in the middle market. "If you have professional expertise in a specialized area of banking you can compete quite successfully," said Mr Joe Joe Musolino, president of Republic Bank in Dallas.

Republic formed the International Energy Bank in London with the Royal Bank of Scotland (which was one of the first foreign banks to set up in Texas). Barclays and others to take on North Sea lending and recently closed a \$1.100m oil loan with Barclays and 21 other banks. The intention is not to compete head on with the banks like the National Westminster, Chase Manhattan or Fuji Bank but to specialise and select. It is in the middle market where the fight may be getting tougher.

Manufacturers' Hanover is looking for business in this area and so is another newcomer, Standard Chartered, which opened a representative office in Houston in May 1979 and an "Edge Act" bank conducting

foreign business in January 1981. It intends to open another in Dallas soon.

Competition is fierce both for Texas banks and those which come from outside the State. The overseas banks have an initial problem in persuading a prospective client why he should deal with a foreign organization.

"It is one of the biggest difficulties you have when knocking on their door," said Mr David Hawkins, who heads Standard Chartered in Houston.

For the Texas banks the impact of the foreigners has meant shaving interest rates. "With strong loan demand we have all to be able to show good profits but it has had an effect and has demanded the greatest efficiency possible," said Mr Robert Greer, chairman of Cullen's Bank in Houston and the present chairman of the Texas Bankers' Association.

The Cullen/Frost group's earnings rose by 30 per cent last year. Republic's were up by a third, but the Texas economy is not proving totally immune from recession and growth could well slow this year.

Further ahead is the effect of a deregulation of the American banking system. Most United States bankers expect interstate banking to come, the only question is when.

Nicholas Hirst

space for the benefit of all mankind. There will be some restrictions in the future but not enough to change the nature of Nasa.

Dr Kraft is a strong supporter of Nasa and its charter. He has fought numerous attempts to wrest control of the organization from its civilian directorship and place it on a more political and/or military footing.

"Nasa has been asked to do a lot of things that are really beyond its charter," he said. "We have been asked to solve the energy problem, to devote time to the environmental problem and look at the other massive problems confronting the human race. But we have a charter and that charter is space, any divergence from that goal would dilute the agency and take away its altruism and ideals."

In the future the Johnson Space Centre will be the home of the technical arm of Nasa, a role which Dr Kraft believes will continue to challenge its employees.

Dr Kraft predicts that in 20 years the Johnson Space Centre will have increased the number of its staff by about one third with Nasa activities spread equally at Cape Canaveral and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. "Our efforts will be assisted by strong participation from private industry.

The character of Nasa may change superficially but I believe that its essential nature will remain the same and will continue to contribute toward the development of Houston and the United States", he said.

Piers Akerman

How one city excited the world

missions, and to participate in medical, engineering and scientific experiments to help man understand and improve his environment. Situated 25 miles southeast of central Houston, the Nasa facility and its staff rapidly became a major influence on the developing city, lending a charisma to the metropolitan area. "Our greatest contribution has been to education in the area," Dr Kraft said. "Because we are an educated group of people we helped develop the schools and the outlook of the universities, not just in research but in a wide-ranging area of programmes.

"Downtown Houston was influenced by the spirit of Nasa and used the space programme as a flag to establish its own identity."

Approximately 3,500 engineers, technicians, scientists, secretaries, mathematicians, managers, clerks, photographers, writers, instructors, administrators and astronauts are employed at the Johnson Space Centre and another 7,500 people work in the region for support contractors.

The combined staff brings in between \$250m and \$300m a year in wages and an extra \$50m to \$100m in additional revenue. Much of the money is spent in the immediate vicinity of Nasa's establishment.

ment and new motels, shopping plazas, homes and schools are evident. During the next 10 years the bulk of the management of the Space Shuttle programme will be shifted to the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral in Florida, but Nasa will still retain a major presence in Houston. "Currently we plan to have a fleet of four Shuttles operational by the end of the decade, with a further four built for Nasa by the turn of the century," said Dr Kraft.

"Columbia will be joined by Challenger, Discovery and Atlantis by 1990 and the United States Air Force will have its own shuttle in operation also. Air Force personnel will join us here at the Johnson Space Centre for Columbia's fourth mission no to monitor our operation and manage the Department of Defence payload the shuttle will be carrying."

Dr Kraft admitted that some Nasa employees were concerned at the increased security measures the newcomers were insisting upon at the Space Centre. "We have been used to operating totally openly here but the Air Force people want to start installing locks and tightening things up generally. Nasa is a civilian agency and by charter is dedicated to the peaceful development of

Dallas, where business is business

Hertz Rent-a-Car at the Dallas airport of Love Field displays a reservation card for a Mr J. R. Ewing. It is a nice touch, but Dallas the city looks much less glossy, in real life than it does in the opening title sequences of the television show.

Cranes spoil the skyline. The television picture when compared with the real thing makes Dallas frozen in unreal time. The real city has constant road construction and the building of a fast-growing community. There are oil men here and, as in the television programme, many of them own ranches. But unlike Houston, Dallas does not come across primarily

as an oil city. The catchphrase heard at promotional conferences, in bars, and in company boardrooms is that the business of Dallas is business.

Put simply, Dallas is more of a white collar town than Houston; its industry is lighter, more diverse, and it likes to think of itself as a financial, banking and insurance centre.

Houston was in fact founded before Dallas, but Dallas gives the impression of being the older community, more established, more culturally aware. Houstonians would say "less exciting". Maria Callas opened the Opera in Dallas in 1957 and the Dallas

Theatre was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The razzmatazz of Houston is missing; so, Dallas would claim, are Houston's problems.

Dallas has been growing quickly, and in fact, with more than three million people, the Dallas-Fort Worth area combined is larger than the comparable Houston metropolitan area, but its rate of growth has not been quite so fast. "Dallas has got a better understanding of its position and has better control," said Mr Terry Fritz, full-time President of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce. Nevertheless last year Dallas put in more new office space than Houston or even Los Angeles.

The Chamber hopes that within the next 10 years more American companies will have their corporate headquarters in Dallas than in any other American city. At the moment it lies third behind Houston and Chicago.

Last year the Chamber had an inquiry every three hours from a United States based

company to relocate or expand in Dallas. Now it is one every, two and a half hours. Foreign banks which have rushed to open offices in Houston as the energy and port business expanded are opening them in Dallas too.

Besides Dallas is facing rate problems. Unemployment in South Dallas, where there is a large black population, is running at 13 per cent, compared with less than 5 per cent in the city as a whole.

It is also likely that while the recession may touch Dallas later and more quietly than it has elsewhere, its effects will be felt this year.

But the city is proud of its planning record. Plots laid for a reservoir in 1949 are just being put into effect. Construction work will begin next year and work is already under way to add another international airport to relieve the expected heavy traffic at Dallas-Fort Worth by the year 2000.

N.H.

is rising. Last year Hughes Tool found that demand for rig equipment was outstripping its capacity to produce.

Texas, with Houston as its oil capital, has built up expertise that is saleable worldwide. Mr Ed Hess, senior vice-president of Exxon USA, said in testimony to the Texas Railroad Commission: "Summarizing the long term outlook, we believe the world's energy future is basically unchanged. Alternative sources of energy will be expensive and lead times will be long; thus we will continue to rely on conventional energy sources throughout the world."

Wells in this area that looked highly profitable at \$38 a barrel and more look very marginal with the price falling below \$30.

The stock market has taken an increasingly jaundiced view of the oil service companies, which reported sharply increased profits last year. For some, however, the decline in demand for rigs has come as a welcome relief. Such was the interest last year that many old, inefficient rigs with inexperienced crews were brought into service and costs soared.

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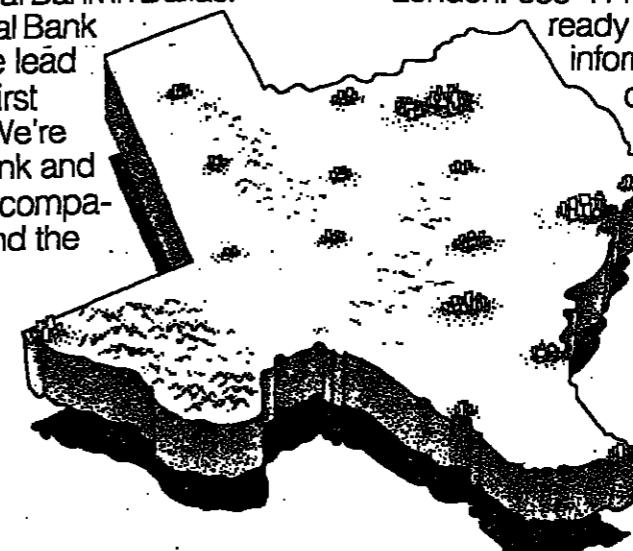
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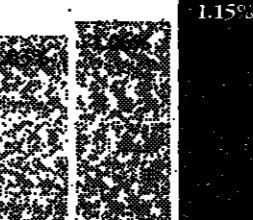
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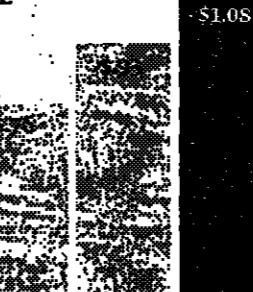
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WILLING THE MEANS

Strategy, as Mr Pym told the Commons yesterday, must be seen as a whole. It is not a diplomatic solution to the Falklands crisis that we want; nor an economic solution, nor a military solution. It is a solution; and we are having to use all three means to achieve it. What weight any one of those means is given at any time depends on the circumstances, and the circumstances depend on many factors outside our control. Nothing that has yet occurred in this crisis can justify the accusation against the Government that it is seeking a military, and only a military, solution. Argentina, on the other hand, has by its behaviour shown that it has no great interest in diplomacy, so that diplomatic means have so far not achieved very much except under the additional stimulus of military pressure. Moreover, the economic means, though long on declaration and intention, are woefully short on immediate effect — and even shorter now that some fair-weather friends in the EEC are considering lifting their sanctions almost before they had imposed them.

The solution we seek is the withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Island. That becomes paramount in the short term, since no other medium or longer term permutation about sovereignty, administration, interim arrangements, or self-determination has any meaning without it. There has been no sign that such withdrawal is likely through diplomacy. The sad and painful conclusion must be that such a withdrawal, or a better inclination to negotiate such a withdrawal, can only be made more likely by military pressure.

The purpose of British military strategy has therefore been to secure this withdrawal, with tactics at all times conditioned by the doctrine of minimum force. That involved imposing a quarantine round the Islands, not only to prevent the invading forces from being further strengthened after the supply and resupply of the last four weeks, but also to emphasise that the invasion and occupation is an unnatural and illegal state of affairs, which must therefore be temporary, and soon terminated.

The quarantine at sea and in the air — the total exclusion zone — has to be maintained. All British action so far has clearly been taken to achieve that objective, and to protect our forces against attacks intended to prevent them from achieving it. This has meant defending ourselves against attack, and, as Mr Nott observed yesterday, it would be inconceivable that the Government's rules of engagement for commanders inhibited them from such defensive action, as, for instance, was required in the engagement with the General Belgrano.

DOCK THREAT ONLY DEFERRED

Through all the recent months of rising unemployment and closing factories, one group of workers has survived in perfect security. Registered dock workers are virtually immune from lay-off or dismissal, and if the company that employs them shuts down other employers in the same port are obliged to find jobs for them, whether or not there is any work for them to do. To relieve the gross overmanning that inevitably results, terms for voluntary severance are so attractive that more than 4,500 out of a labour force of 20,000 accepted them last year, in spite of all the uncertainties of life in the world outside the dock gate.

It is this comfortable state of affairs that the dockers would like to compel the Government to extend to the smaller ports which were left out of the statutory National Dock Labour Scheme in 1976. A soft answer from the Government has led the negotiators to put off a clash which would inevitably be profoundly damaging to the economy. But the threat is only deferred: the Government will hardly be able to look favourably on a proposal which even the Labour government flinched from as too radical. Short of naval blockade, no surer mean can be imagined of hurrying the ports outside the scheme into the same kind of malaise that afflicts most of the ports that are members. The scheme, and the restrictive practices that go with it, are not exclusively to blame for the dismal performance of the

ports involved. London and Liverpool, Bristol and the Clyde, would in any case have suffered sharply for geographical and technological reasons in the past few years. But the extra burden of overmanning and the reluctance of the labour force to allow the ports to adapt to new methods of cargo handling developed by our competitors across the Channel has hastened the decline.

Felixstowe, the most successful of the non-scheme ports, has risen from small beginnings to seventh place nationally in terms of tonnage. This is partly because of its favourable position for the growing trade with the EEC, but the greater flexibility of its handling methods has been a more important factor. With some goods it can undercut the Port of London by 20 per cent. In the many much smaller ports the inflexibility and bureaucracy of the scheme's rules would be even more damaging to competitiveness. Although earnings at Felixstowe are slightly lower than the average, expansion has made it possible to raise productivity without causing redundancies, and even the high rewards of scheme membership have not induced its workers to show much eagerness to join.

For all their protection, registered dockers cannot look on the withering of their home ports entirely without misgivings. Major gains in productivity have been belatedly agreed both on Merseyside and in Hull in recent

undertook other security commitments at home or abroad. The defence of vital interests, be they principles, citizens, or sovereignty, cannot be so precisely and accurately assessed if it is to have any real validity as a basis of national policy.

The question now is: how does the Government proceed from here? The first necessity is to continue our attempt to secure a total exclusion zone against the attacks of Argentine aircraft and ships. This may mean a contraction in the perimeter of the zone, to provide fewer chances for Argentine attack by mainland-based aircraft. But the zone must clearly be kept intact and made more secure in time for the arrival of the land forces within the next two weeks. At that stage, if there has been no break through in negotiations, the Government will have to establish and augment a land presence in the Islands. Of that there can be no doubt.

But there may have been negotiations by then. Mr Pym yesterday spoke favourably about the prospect of a trusteeship status for the Falklands Islands under United Nations auspices. The House, or most of it, felt reassured at this prospect at the end of the negotiating process; but it is that process itself which still baffles statesmen.

Whatever longer term arrangement can be made for the Islanders' security there are certain factors which constitute an irreducible minimum to the British position. The first is that nothing can be done without a preliminary Argentine withdrawal, and no negotiations entered into which do not provide for that withdrawal. The second is that the question of British sovereignty against the Argentine claims cannot be conceded or negotiated; it can only be frozen pending judicial decision. The third is that the Islanders' views and wishes must be fully respected in the final settlement. After this invasion, it is inconceivable that they would opt for, or could be pressured into, accepting either Argentine sovereignty or any type of Argentine control.

So we are back in a difficult phase of our strategy to achieve a solution which is consistent with those principles, as with the overriding principle that illegal acts of international violence must not be condoned or compromised with. The basis of strategy is the struggle for freedom of action. The invasion pinned us down, and pressurised us into accepting it. Our response has restored our freedom to challenge the invasion and has prevented it being accepted by the Islanders, by the British nation as a whole, even by the world community. That freedom of action for our own people, for all people — that freedom — must remain our objective.

If the task force had been sent out to the Falklands with a limited casualty label stuck on its sterns, what would that figure have been, one? two? twenty? thirty? three hundred? These figures are not calculable, any more than they were when Britain

entered into the operation contrast starkly with

the amateur blunders by successive governments which made it necessary.

It is devoutly to be hoped that wiser counsels will now prevail, and that a wiser man will soon be charged with reordering our defence priorities to accord realistically with our Nato obligations.

This would, as an important bonus, enable us to continue to play the part for which history and aptitude make us particularly suitable, in deterring all aggression, whether within or outside the Nato area.

I am, and remain, Sir,

HILL-NORTON,
King's Mill House,
South Nutfield, Surrey.
May 1.

From the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry

Sir, May I repeat a proposal I made in the House of Commons over 10 years ago? Regrettably, it fell on mainly deaf ears then, but the Falklands crisis makes it more obviously pertinent and urgent now.

It was for the creation of a South Atlantic Treaty Organization (SATO) or else for the extension of NATO to cover the entire Atlantic, together with suitable bases. The Falkland Islands, South Georgia and Simons Town are good examples.

Quite apart from the long-term

significance of mineral and other

resources in Antarctica, most of

the free world depends upon the

movement of shipping, including

oil super-tankers, around the

capes. Argentinian aggression

demonstrates the extreme vulner-

ability of these trade routes and

that NATO defences could be as

easily by-passed today as the

Maginot line in 1940. We must

not let a relatively minor indepen-

dent dictatorship distract us from

the far greater menace of those

striving for global dictatorship of

the Communist variety.

Because many Central and

South American states could be

unreliable allies, through their

proxeness to unstable undemoc-

atic regimes or their flirtation

with Cuba, and because most

European countries are even

more dependent upon oil imports

than we are, there is a good

reason for their direct participa-

tion in a new SATO or ATO.

For too long we have dithered

over the Falkland Islands and

dependencies. Now, I suggest,

is the time to plan their future,

following the withdrawal of

Argentine forces, in the context

of global strategy, and take

positive action jointly with our

true friends in Europe, Canada

and the United States.

Yours faithfully,

BUCCLEUCH,

Dundasrig Castle,

Thornhill,

Dumfriesshire.

May 2.

From Mr W. O. Cole

Sir, Now, surely, the time has

come for our Government to

assume the diplomatic initiative

in the Falklands crisis.

It should do this, first, because

it is as potential "Victor,"

should be magnanimous. Secondly, in a

spirit of realism it should realize

that for General Galtieri to sue

for peace would be to guarantee

his deposition and perhaps death.

In politics and diplomacy one's

hand is not always shown, but in

war if the aims are not clear, not

merely justification prejudiced

but also control of the actual

combatants.

What are the official aims?

We too seem to have made a non-

negotiable, nationalistic god of if

it is still any use at all) the

narrowly legal doctrine of sover-

ignty which may define what

one may do but does not define

what one can or should do.

Invocation of "sovereignty" as

a principle actually limits our

power by tying our hands in

politics and diplomacy. In terms of

"sovereignty" the problem is,

like Northern Ireland, insoluble;

but there are times when we

actually have more collective

power without sovereignty, as the

formation of the EEC shows.

"The interests of the Falkland

islanders" is more promising, if

it is not as attractive as our own

real interests and those of the

Argentinians. Edmund Burke,

speaking of the doctrine of

sovereignty, cried out to Lord

North in his great speech, "On

Conciliation with America," "I

care not if you have a right to

make them miserable, have you

not an interest to make them

happy?" We can hardly make

even the Falkland islanders

happy by atavistic routes of

patriotic death when we last

shred of power lie in our

reputation for diplomatic and

political skill.

Real power lay in working with

our allies in concert, as through

the EEC and by mounting

pressure on the USA to control

its other allies, not in a hollow

show of strength that has only

exposed (a) our lack of it and (b)

the inherent unpredictability of

violence.

It is both morally wrong and

political folly to bluff and gamble

with people's lives.

Yours sincerely,

BERNARD CRICK,

Department of Politics and

Sociology,



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 5: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended, in Victoria Station, the morning and the Royal Train, Her Majesty's were received by the Greater Lord-Lieutenant William Downward, the Manchester County Council (County) Councillor Dr Jim Taylor and the Lord Mayor of the city of Manchester (Councillor Hugh Lee).

Her Royal Highness, attended by the Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

CLARENCE HOUSE

May 5: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon visited the Young Women's Christian Association Central Club to mark its Golden Jubilee. Lady Jean Rankin and Captain Alastair Aire were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE May 5: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this morning opened the new Theatre Royal in Plymouth.

Her Royal Highness was later entertained at dinner at the Council House by the Lord Mayor of Plymouth (Councillor Ralph Morell).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lady Anne Tenant.

KENSINGTON PALACE May 5: The Duke of Gloucester this morning opened the new Administrative Headquarters of the Ramsbury Building Society, Marlborough. In the afternoon His Royal Highness visited Seymour Court, Burghill (Sheltered Housing Complex) and opened the Bartlett House Ludgershall - withshire County Council Home for Elderly People.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester was present this afternoon at the Annual Meeting of the Arab Women's Council at the Islamic Cultural Centre. In the evening Her Royal Highness, Patron of Counsel and Trustee for the Elderly People, attended a Fashion Show organized by Marks and Spencer Ltd in aid of the Counsel at Fairfield Hall, Croydon.

Mrs Euan McCordquodale was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, opened and toured the new Art Centre at Canford School, Wimborne Minster and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Dorset (Colonel Joseph Weld).

Her Royal Highness was later entertained at luncheon at Dorset Institute of Higher Education

and afterwards laid the Foundation Stone of the College of Art and Design, Dorset Institute of Higher Education, Walsdown, Poole.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Patron of the Riding for the Disabled Association, this afternoon visited the Bryanton Group at the Deer Park Riding Stables, Whitecliffe, Hill Street, Blandford.

Her Royal Highness, attended by the Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

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A memorial service for Dr Alfred Spinks will be held at St Margaret's, Westminster, today at 11.30.

A memorial service for Mr Alfred Fairbank will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, today at noon.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr J. B. Martin is to be held in Exeter Cathedral on Saturday, May 8, at noon.

Latest wills

Mr Pearl Weyl, of Golders Green, London, left estate valued at £534,407, and after a small bequest, she left £500 or a fifth of the residue each to the Jewish Blind Society, Home for Aged Jews, the Jewish Association for the Physically Handicapped, London, Shaare Zedek Hospital, Jerusalem, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Lush, Mr George James of Fordingbridge, Hampshire £371,025

Pennycuick, Sir John, of Temple, London, former Vice-Chancellor, Chancery Division of the High Court £35,285

Roheson, Miss Joan Gwynne, of Swindon £245,814

Woolmen's Company

The following have been elected officers of the Woolmen's Company for the ensuing year:

Master: Mr Arthur Hollis; Upper Warden: Mr W. A. Hadley;

Under Warden: Mr R. E. Auld.

John Bayley: Allusion in poetry

*

Thomas Nagel: Can ethics be objective?

*

Conor Cruise O'Brien on Camus

*

R. A. Butler's Art of Memory'

*

Clive James's criticism

*

Lord Carver on Alanbrooke

*

TLS THIS WEEK

In this week's issue

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Conor Cruise O'Brien on Camus

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R. A. Butler's Art of Memory'

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*

TLS
THE TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT
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Mr Willie Carson, the jockey, yesterday after his marriage to Miss Elaine Williams, a farmer's daughter, at Chester register office. He later won one of the big races of the day at Chester, the Cheshire Oaks.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain A. M. Nall and Miss C. Robinson

The engagement is announced between Alexander M. Nall, The Royal Green Jackets, younger son of Sir Michael and Lady Nall, of Haweringham Hall, near Nottingham, and Caroline Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Robinson, of Little Court, Blagdon, near Bristol.

Mr D. G. Creton and Miss S. Kojek

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Creton, of Westbyde Park, Wetheridge, Surrey, and Sacha, only daughter of Mr Bernard Rekeli and of the late Mr Bernard Rekeli and of Mrs A. SWI.

Mr R. L. Constant and Mrs E. J. Lloyd

The marriage will take place shortly between Richard Constant, of Crowkerne, Somerset, and Alice Louise Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Barker, of The Rookery, Wilby, Eye, Suffolk.

Mr T. N. Jordan and Miss J. K. Maughan

The engagement is announced between Terry, son of Mr and Mrs John Jordan, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, and Joanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Maughan, of White Gables, Prestbury, Cheshire.

Mr A. J. Macpherson and Miss L. F. Barford

The engagement is announced between Angus John, younger son of Mr and Mrs A. N. Macpherson, of Commonweal, Beared Kent, and Anne, third daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Barford, of Snowdenham, Bramley, Surrey.

Mr R. D. Whited and Mrs K. W. Palmer

The engagement is announced between Roger, elder son of the late Mr John Densham and Mrs Dorothy Densham, of Poole, Hampshire, and Clare, young daughter of Captain W. R. M. Winkles, of Gable House, Woolton Rivers, Marlsborough, Wiltshire.

Mr W. R. A. Densham and Miss C. Winkley

The engagement is announced between Roger, elder son of the late Mr John Densham and Mrs Dorothy Densham, of Poole, Hampshire, and Clare, young daughter of Captain W. R. M. Winkles, of Gable House, Woolton Rivers, Marlsborough, Wiltshire.

Princess opens new theatre in Plymouth

By Christopher Warman
Arts Correspondent

The new Theatre Royal, Plymouth, a £1m project which will give people in Devon and Cornwall for the first time the chance to see Britain's main opera and ballet companies.

It was opened last night by Princess Margaret.

The theatre was financed by the local authority with the assistance of nearly £2m from the EEC regional development fund and £500,000 from the Arts Council.

It is a vital link in the chain of major touring theatres throughout the country". Mr David Pratley, the Arts council's regional director, commented yesterday.

As part of its policy to establish first-rate, large-scale theatres to help open up drama to a wider audience, the Arts Council had made grants of £450,000 to the Palace Theatre, Manchester; £417,000 to the Birmingham Hippodrome; £150,000 to the Theatre Royal, Nottingham; £210,000 to the Empire Theatre, Liverpool; and £115,000 to the Grand Theatre, Leeds.

Birthdays today



Mr Orson Welles, the actor and director, who is 67

Sir John Arnold, 67, Air Chief Marshal Sir Walter Davison, 84, Sir John Elliott, 84, Mr R. F. Gil, Mr Stewart Granger, 69, Major-General J. Hamilton Jones, 56; Sir Ronald Harris, 62, Mr K. G. Holden, 72; Sir Patrick Meany, 57; Mr Alan Ross, 60; Rev John Taylor, 53.

Catherine Ashmore

Television Dramatic strength

Central's four-part series *I Remember Nelson* ended last night with a superb piece of television. It dealt with the Battle of Trafalgar and, true to the style of the rest of the series, did so from a highly specific and cunningly oblique perspective.

We saw the action solely on the lower gun deck and through the eyes of one William Blackie, gunner. Necessarily this involved a great deal of documentary clutter on the workings of the guns and the routine of battle, as well as a long succession of violent deaths and horrific maimings, the latter being dealt with by appropriately gruesome surgery and the former by tossing the corpses over the side. But the episode succeeded in moulding this seemingly random, bloody chaos and detailed historical recreation into entirely satisfying drama.

It did so by playing Blackie off against Nelson. Yet this was not a crude general-against-infantry polemic — indeed the poor cannon-fodder were shown cheering their admiral with mystical fervour, their eyes gleaming with a sense that their pathetic conditions could be transcended. In addition Kenneth Colley's excellent Nelson, though indeed a study in arrogance, betrayed only a faltering grasp of his own greatness, a quality demonstrated not by his words but by his distracted, drawn features. He appeared to know that something made the whole affair absurd but he could not be sure precisely what.

Hugh Whitemore, the writer, began by ironically playing off Nelson's last will and testament before the battle against a lower deck deal should either of the partners die. He then moved through the blood of battle, through the dawning horrors on the faces of the gunners and the powder monkeys, through the pale shattered features of the padre, finally to Nelson's distracted resignation after a sniper's bullet had shattered his spine. Only Nelson had not changed; he lay dying still obsessed with his duty, still baffled by his obsession.

Meanwhile Blackie has been wounded in the foot, and in his delirium struggles to a gun-port to see the sun. He passes Nelson at the moment of his death, attains the gun-port and sees only a pig swimming in the water before he is hit in the head. Whitemore concludes years later with Blackie in home, his brain having been damaged by the shot. Victorian philanthropists visit and give him a sovereign in recognition of what he did for his country, but Blackie just turns to look, at last, at the sun.

Whitemore's — and indeed Central's — courage lay in avoiding the routine grind of a tele-drama-documentary. There was plenty of painstaking work by the props department but the creative hand was strong enough to subjugate their efforts to the demands of the imagination. For all the research in the world is as nothing without Whitemore and Colley's delicious touch of having Nelson recite all his symphonies with the eerie calm of a man whose mind is elsewhere.

Bryan Appleyard

The Queen of Spades

Gardner Centre,
Brighton

During the orchestral introduction to New Sussex Opera's Brighton Festival production of Tchaikovsky's *Queen of Spades* Herman, the domed and gilded hall seemed isolated and spotlit downstage, watched in the dark by tiered galleries of onlookers. This chilling tableau of the opera's end in its beginning epitomizes the individuality and consistency of the director Nicholas

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Theatre

Shaw out of control

Dear Liar

Mermaid

Snug in his writing hut down the garden Shaw enjoyed flirtatious correspondence with a good many ladies, from Ellen Terry to Miss Hopeful Blue Eyes of Godalming; but the only one of these exchanges that ever yielded a play was his 40-year ding-dong with Mrs Patrick Campbell.

He saw the action solely on the lower gun deck and through the eyes of one William Blackie, gunner. Necessarily this involved a great deal of documentary clutter on the workings of the guns and the routine of battle, as well as a long succession of violent deaths and horrific maimings, the latter being dealt with by appropriately gruesome surgery and the former by tossing the corpses over the side. But the episode succeeded in moulding this seemingly random, bloody chaos and detailed historical recreation into entirely satisfying drama.

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Bryan Appleyard

career by putting her into his plays.

Jerome Kilty's adaptation of this story has had a long and well-deserved innings over the past 30 years, and Frith Banbury's production takes full advantage of its skill in transforming correspondence into dialogue. Bob Godalming's set consists of a study and a dressing room, torn apart by a bloodied boundary line. To each his own side, it seems.

Unlike his other plays, this one tells a story. Shaw glumly sets himself down as a person to whom nothing ever happens, but something certainly happened between him and Mrs Pat. He first approached her in 1899, laid low with the illness from which he emerged a married man. If Mrs Pat had accepted his invitation and zoomed off to Hindhead to read for Cleopatra, Charlotte might have found herself in the role of Octavia. However, still reclining on the voluptuous laurels of Paula Tanqueray, she turned the uppty apprentice playwright down; and when they resumed contact, for the stormy, farcical *Pigmalian* episode, was as professional equals.

Not only that. Having missed his chance before, Shaw — then in his late fifties — moved in on her with the crazed fervour known to middle-aged might-have-beens. There followed his bungling descent on her Sandwich love nest, and its humiliating conclusion: stripped of wit by the insult to his vanity, and thoroughly out of control.

Thereafter, the relationship underwent a long and extremely cruel reversal in which Shaw put on riches and celebrity like a prize marrow and Mrs Pat slowly lost the lot, winding up her wretched years in Hollywood as a fat, penniless, dog-eaten exile caging handouts from the man who continued to advance his

success. Mrs Phillips is much the more detached of the two. She indicates Mrs Pat's grief at her son's death, or her wily attempt to extract favours out of Shaw, while holding the character firmly at arm's length. Every point is made with commanding clarity, but without conjuring up the seductress or the *monstre théâtrale*.

Mr Hardy opts for a light brogue which serves him well, not only in the explosions of torrential fun and fury ("I absolutely refuse to play the horse any longer to your Lady Godiva") but in the extraordinary meditation on his mother's cremation,

pungent combination of woodwinds. Tennstedt interpreted the score as if he were examining it under a magnifying glass.

Now and then some passage sounded like a caricature of itself, but almost always the score showed that Tennstedt was not exaggerating: that was actually what Mahler wanted. There is, as Mahlerites are aware, a good measure of spiky humour in the fourth symphony, starting with the mimicry of sleighbells and ending with the peasant child's imagination of life in Paradise, each little scene quaintly (I do not mean archly) underlined in the music for the poem.

Good Mahler conductors respect this aspect of the piece. Tennstedt more acutely than most, as if surveying it all through the literal-minded fancies of children, to reside in the conductor's scrupulous attention to special effects, here a cymbal, there a bass drum, now the double basses pizzicato, or a particularly

unusually dapper, and with the structural gearing of consecutive sections.

The first movement began with a gigantic ritenuto into the first melody, thereafter requiring no more than gentle pressure on the brakes; in many transitions, he set the new tempo without preparation, and the effect was both brilliant and poetic — the LPO's response was exceptionally keen, give or take a flute.

The slow movement was properly the symphony's great point of heavenly repose, unfolded with superb intensity, but not at all minded to drag. As admirable was the continuity of the development in the first movement, as if uttered in one breath, and the sheer vivacity of the finale's invention.

Before the interval Tennstedt and the LPO strings had treated us to an eloquent, intense reading of Schoenberg's descriptive tone-poem *Verklärte Nacht*, emphasizing the wan moon-

light of the poem's scene, as well as the sumptuous lyricism and the exquisite delicacy of the "transfigured night" in which the story ends.

William Mann

Schola Cantorum

St John's

Twenty years or so ago, the Schola Cantorum of Oxford made a record of Tavernier's *My Corona Simea* which I still treasure. Hearing them on Tuesday, it was as if time had stood still. There was that same undergraduate immaturity in their voices but, more important, the same nervous eagerness which propelled that earlier performance along relentlessly, also there. This time, though, heartily encouraged by the confident direction of their conductor,

Malcolm Clarke

Interview: Bertrand Tavernier

Reflecting upon one's inner terrors

"Making films is, for me, a way of not killing people. I have often wanted very strongly to kill people." Bertrand Tavernier, the French film director, insists he is capable of committing murder. Fortunately it is art which pulls him back from the brink. His films, he says, are cathartic, an outlet for the anger which inspires them, whether it be directed against social injustice, religion or suffering. He was angry when he made his latest film, *Clean Slate* (*Coup de torchon*), which opens at the Curzon today, and its concentration on violence and cruelty reflects his own inner terrors.

Clean Slate is the most autobiographical of all Tavernier's seven films. The central character, the policeman Cordier, who kills to change a world he can no longer endure, is someone with whom he feels an ambivalent sympathy. "Sometimes I'm completely for him. Sometimes I'm a bit frightened of him. Like him I have felt humiliation, a desire to revolt, the need to destroy and provoke God, and a terrible sense of being powerless. Most of all I have felt anger about arrogant stupidity. I think it is one of the deadliest things in the world."

Tavernier, now 41, is one of several younger French film directors, but his work is not widely known in this country. His first film, *The Watchmaker of St Paul*, was highly regarded but it was the first of a trilogy whose complementary parts, *Let the Party Begin* and *The Judge and the Assassin*, have never been shown here. Neither has *Spoiled Children*, although *Deathwatch*, made in English, and *A Week's Holiday* have been distributed.

Tavernier blames the old-fashioned and conservative attitude of the distributors. "They never try to educate people. Instead of trying to get involved with European cinema, they always turn to America." In England you have been colonized by American films."

A former film critic and publicity agent for the producer Georges de Beauregard, Tavernier learned his craft working with directors like Godard and Chabrol. He enjoys taking both actors

and audiences by surprise. "After my

interview, I was immediately labelled 'The great humanist'. So I decided to destroy that image. I wanted to show the anger and fear I felt inside."

The vehicle he chose was *Pop 1980*, a novel by the American writer Jim Thompson set in the American Deep South in the 1920s. Tavernier first read the book in 1966 but had to wait 11 years before the rights became available. "I had a great shock when I first read it. There was a mixture of violence and black humour, not a very comfortable humour, but one which gets to the nerves of things."

Reluctant to make an "Americanized" French film, Tavernier spent considerable time searching for a French setting that would not distort Thompson's images and ideas. Eventually he came up with a town in French Colonial Africa in 1938, infected by

growing fear about the outbreak of

war. "We made the picture in Senegal in just eight weeks. About fifty per cent is new material written by Jean Aurenche and me, but I hope the voice of Jim Thompson's is there. Clean Slate is the first, if you get the pun — black film noir".

Tavernier tried hard to avoid the seductive dangers of the pictures.

"Do you think of all the films we've seen set in Africa, you realize that as soon as a character goes outdoors

he becomes a deshabille and the household chores transferred from women to men. Jane Wells's score, for recorded tape and on-stage oboist, is equally good; Christopher Redgate's happy participation in the action reinforces the effect of his playing.

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BELL'S SCOTCH WHISKY BELL'S

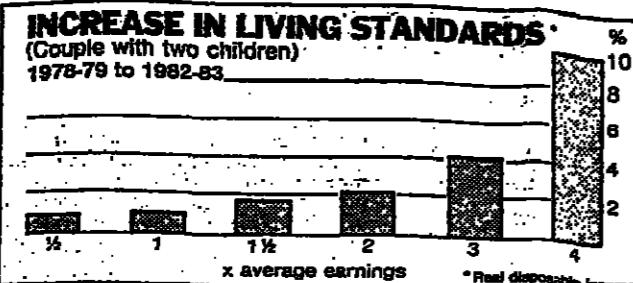
Stock Exchange Prices

Falklands Uncertainty

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, April 30. Dealings end, May 14. \$ Contango Day, May 17. Settlement Day, May 24.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1981/82 High Low Stock	Int. Gross Price Chg'ge Field Yield	1981/82 High Low Company	Gross Price Chg'ge pence % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company	Gross Price Chg'ge pence % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company	Gross Price Chg'ge pence % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company	Gross Price Chg'ge pence % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company	Gross Price Chg'ge pence % P/E	1981/82 High Low Company	Gross Price Chg'ge pence % P/E
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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL													
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Four consecutive Conservative Budgets have left the lowest paid workers barely better-off than in the final year of the last Labour government, while the highest paid have improved their living standards by nearly 10 per cent. The figures in the chart, compiled by the Treasury in answer to a parliamentary question, are based on take-home pay plus child benefit (and family income supplement where appropriate) adjusted for inflation.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 575.4 down 8.8
FT Gilts 67.67 down 0.31
FT Allshare 328.52 down 4.03
Bargains 18,049
Tokyo: market closed
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,316, down 3.18

INTEREST RATES

Base rates 13%
3 month interbank 13 1/4%
Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 14%–15
3 month DM 8%–9%
3 month Fr 23%–22%

PRICE CHANGES

Lloyds Bank 396p down 7p
Thom EMI 420p down 12p
Lauren 342p down 13p
General Accident 280p down 10p
British Sugar 495p down 10p

Smith St Aubyn 34p down 4p
Tootall 37 1/2p down 3p
Trident TV (A) 78p down 4p
Unilever 609p down 8p
P & O 144p up 5p
United Scientific 341p up 11p

Invergordon rescue plan

Final details of a new rescue plan for the Invergordon aluminium smelter are unlikely to be completed until next week, despite the plan's approval in principle by the Cabinet's key economic committee last Tuesday. The plan involves offering a cheap power package based on subsidized coal to potential buyers of the plant, shut by British Aluminium shortly after Christmas with the loss of nearly 900 jobs. Whitehall officials stress that the Scottish Office package still has no guarantee of being acceptable to the four or five companies interested in Invergordon.

'Call up' ships payment

P & O has received a down-payment of £1.25m from the Government after the requisition of four ships, including the Canberra, for Falklands duty. Talks on full compensation are continuing and the Ministry of Defence is being billed monthly. Meanwhile, P & O pretax profit last year fell from £47.0m to £40.95m. There was a strong recovery in the second half after profits had slumped from £12.9m to £7.9m at the interim stage. The total dividend rises from 8p to 10p. Lord Inchcape, chairman, forecasts improved results this year.

Manager 'exploited' singer

A High Court judgment has effectively made null and void earnings estimated at £3m made by Management Agency and Music through its association with singer Gilbert O'Sullivan. Mr Justice Mars-Jones said that the singer had been exploited by Mr Gordon Mills his former manager, chairman of MAM. He awarded Mr O'Sullivan the copyright of his songs, with records master tapes. In his judgment the judge said that between 1970 and 1978 Gilbert O'Sullivan records had grossed about £14.5m – from which Mr O'Sullivan made about £400,000 before tax. The MAM board says it has been advised to appeal.

Chequepoint checks fraud

Chequepoint, which runs twelve late night cheque cashing branches in central London, is reporting a fraud around 30 or 40 holders of stolen cheque cards each month, saving the high street banks an estimated £250,000 a year. On average, each bank branch could expect to spot just one stolen cheque card a year. "Our counter staff are always on the lookout for potential fraud," Mr Anthony Hutton, chief executive of Chequepoint, said. Cashiers are also trained to spot counterfeit notes.

Imports attack

Britain must cease being the soft market for the so-called developing world and action was needed against countries which blocked imports of British goods by crippling duties while having free access to the United Kingdom, Mr Geoffrey Moore, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders president said, in London yesterday.

More UK oil

The United Kingdom produced 19 per cent more oil than it consumed in the first quarter of this year, the largest surplus yet in seven years of North Sea output, according to Department of Energy figures published yesterday. Output was up by 7.5 per cent on the year before to 23.3 million tonnes.

THE GOVERNMENT was urged by Mr Walter Goldsmith, director-general of the Institute of Directors, to give away loss-making nationalized industries. He told a London conference the private sector should be paid to remove the burden of loss-makers on public funds.

SNOOKER clubs Riley Leisure and Lucania Snooker Clubs are planning to join forces in a deal worth £3.1m. Riley has agreed terms to buy Kensal House Investments, owner of the 16-club Lucania group.

UNIONS were warned yesterday by Mr Ian Kelsall, director of the Wales CBI, that a "wage freeze" would have a catastrophic effect on jobs and severely hamper the slow industrial recovery."

CURRENCIES

• The pound ended stronger against a weaker dollar but lost ground against continental currencies in the wake of Falklands developments. The dollar fell sharply on expectations of lower interest rates in the short term.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING
£1.8060 up 95 points
Index 89.6 down 0.5
DM 4.1875
Fr 10.9250
Yen 4.2400
DOLLAR
Index 112.6 down 0.9
DM 2.3180 down 250 points
GOLD
\$336.50 down \$6.00

Gold and currency reserves lowest for three years

Pound and shares recover after nervous trading

Financial markets reacted nervously yesterday to British losses in the South Atlantic late in Tuesday and Wednesday, with the pound dominated by unconfirmed rumours.

The pound fell sharply in erratic trading against continental currencies, though it finished stronger against a weaker dollar, while Government stocks and shares also lost ground.

The Treasury's announcement that Britain's gold and currency reserves fell by £810m last month to their lowest for more than three years had relatively little impact.

The pound fell to \$1.7950 at one stage yesterday before finishing in London at \$1.8060, nearly a cent up from Tuesday and its highest for six weeks. But the index measuring its wider international value dropped 4.5 to 89.6 per cent of its 1975 level, reflecting falls against European currencies such as the Deutschmark.

The dollar was hit by lower short term interest rates and expectations that rates are likely to fall further in the

short term, now that the April bulge in the money supply has passed with a tightening credit policy by the United States authorities.

Against the Deutschmark the dollar tumbled 2½ pence to 2.3180, a fall of nearly 8 pence in just two weeks.

The drop in Britain's official reserves left them standing at \$18,159m (£10.105m) at the end of April, their lowest since March 1979. After adjusting for loan repayments and valuation changes the underlying fall – a rough guide to the Bank of England intervention in foreign exchange markets to steady the pound – amounted to \$394.

Though substantial, this suggests that intervention following the Falklands invasion has been on a smaller scale than last autumn, when sterling threatened to collapse.

Low repayments from the reserves last month included \$105m of the International Monetary Fund Oil Facility, half of which was an early repayment. This brings

marked down, particularly in the industrial sector. But by the close some shares were recovered and the FTSE 30 index closed down 0.8 at 575.4, compared to 570.1 at 10 o'clock.

Gils were down about half a point in the long and medium sectors of the market, and shorts recovered at the end of the day to be down about a quarter.

In the United States institutions investors have moved back strongly into Wall Street after the profit-making and nervousness seen earlier in the week (Nicholas Hirst writes).

In heavy trading the Dow Jones industrial share average by noon was up 4.28 at 858.73, following a rise of 5.42 to 854.45 at the close yesterday.

The market is now shedding off bad news, ignoring the Falkland Islands crisis and the lack of a compromise on the United States budget to continue the long rally which began seven weeks ago.

WHITEHALL BACKS NEW TECH FIRMS

By Bill Johnstone

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, last night reaffirmed the Government's intention to favour the new technology industries instead of supporting what he terms the "casualties of the past".

He announced the Government's commitment in a speech last night at the annual dinner of the Electronic Engineering Association.

Mr Jenkin said: "When I took over at the department and asked for a breakdown of our spending, I was astonished to learn that no less than half my budget goes to support the casualties of the past. I am determined to change this".

He emphasized that the current trade deficit of about £230m in information technology goods, highlighted last week in a report by the National Economic Development Council was totally unacceptable.

"The electronics industry and the Government must address themselves urgently to what needs to be done to stop it happening," he said.

Another report prepared for the NEDC also stresses the growing trade gap in consumer electronics.

Business Editor

General Accident's chilling tale

Judging by yesterday's appalling results from General Accident, the first quarter of this year is going to be one of the worst periods ever for the insurance and reinsurance industry.

Those are the bright spots for General Accident. The good news is that inflationary expectations are obviously cooling. There is now less risk of a sharp upward burst in prices when output picks up, although cynics may feel that this is partly because output shows little sign of recovering.

For the rest, the figures are a grim reminder that so far as insurance has been painfully slow for most of Britain's industry. But nothing in the latest set of figures casts real doubt on the consensus that output will rise by about 1½ per cent this year.

P & O Mixed picture

Whatever the public thinks, P & O remains fixed in the City's eyes as a shipping company which makes a pittance from the trade. Last year the group's net profit from ships, OCL, was a mere £2m, although just under half total assets (of around £700m) are in ships.

Yet in the past six months, all the headlines have revolved around ships, hence the share price gyrations on rumours of bids from Chinese owners strikes at Southampton.

In a conglomerate, then, with shipping interests, P & O derived the bulk of its 1981 pretax profit of £41m (down from a peak £47.1m, but proof of remarkable recovery after the £729,000 earned at the interim stage) from oil trading, Bovis, banking and property.

Oil profits fell from £17.2m to £10.6m due to deregulation in the United States, over-capacity and conservation. But Bovis profits jumped from £2.3m to £6.8m, despite the construction slump, and other divisions made useful contributions with the exception of ferries. At least the losses here were down from £8.1m to £6.7m – and a further cut is expected this year after 15 per cent price rises.

The sale of bulk cargo ships will continue, leaving the group to concentrate on its interest in specialist container vessels. Debt is down from a peak of £420m to £270 – including a £10m fall in the latest year and gearing is a conservative 30 per cent. Profits in 1982 could touch £50m and the current share price of 145p, up 6p, compares with a probable net asset value of around 400p.

Hungary wins membership of IMF

From Bailey Morris, Washington, May 5

Hungary has become the second Soviet Bloc country to join the International Monetary Fund. An IMF spokesman said Hungary's membership application was approved by a wide margin by the 145 member countries including the United States.

The Reagan Administration has been less supportive of Poland's still pending IMF membership application. A high-level delegation of Hungarians led by Mr Jozsef Marjai, the deputy prime minister, has been in Washington for almost a week for talks with both the IMF and the World Bank.

Last November, the IMF suspended Romania's access to a \$1.300m (£72m) line of credit because it failed to carry out certain specified economic reforms and it was falling behind in repayments.

In taking the decisions of admitting Hungary and providing financial support to Romania, the IMF has provided important psychological and practical support to the two Communist nations

to Western banks and companies.

The Romanian government has been attempting in recent months to refinance an estimated \$2,300m in debt repayments due this year to more than 300 Western banks. Romania became the first Soviet Bloc country to join the IMF when its membership application was approved in 1973.

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MARKET SUMMARY

Falklands uncertainty depresses shares

Uncertainty about the outcome in the South Atlantic can be translated into political uncertainty which the market dislikes above all. That is why yesterday saw a reversal of Tuesday's rally.

But leading brokers remarked that the market did not feel as depressed as the index made it appear. The manufacturing companies in the index were down quite heavily, as record rises were judged overdone against the background of the stagnant British economy.

So Turner & Newall was down 3p at 65p, ICI fell by 6p to 320p. Vickers dropped by 3p to 163p.

The market had come of the bottom before the close of the day. The opening index showed a fall of 14.1, it rallied to a level down 8 points by noon, came back to a fall of 10 points at 3 o'clock and recovered to a drop of 8.8 on the day by 5 o'clock. There was a low volume of trading, although those lines that were around were said to have found ready home given that the jobbers were still short of stock after the rally on Friday night and on Tuesday.

There was a large amount of Thorn EMI on offer from the market, and the price closed down 13p at 420p. Analysts believe that the market has become nervous of prospects for video sales.

General Accident's first quarter figures disappointed the market, and the shares fell by 10p to

288p. Analysts marked down their forecasts for Royal and Commercial Union, whose figures are due next week, as the underwriting background in the United Kingdom and the United States is obviously worse than feared, with compensation keeping down motor premiums.

Additionally, the bad weather this winter has increased the cash payment of claims reducing the opportunity of investment profits. Royal closed unchanged at 331, but Commercial Union was down 4p at 126p, and Eagle Star dropped by 10p to 352p.

Other moves on company news was a drop in Smith St Aubyn shares by 4p to 35p on the loss. P&O Dido rose by 5p to 144p on profit-taking after Glynwed's bid.

Gold shares were depressed by the Falklands news, with Lloyds down 4p at 396p, as their particular worries about its Argentine involvement. National Westminster was down 11p at 405p. But Barclays was unchanged at 448p and Midland stayed at 323p.

Sainsbury closed unchanged at 650p on a 35 per cent profits rise and the scrip issue. Trident TV eased a further 4p to 78p awaiting the court decision on its casino licence renewals.

Channel Tunnel was again the most startling rise in the market, gaining 37p to 170p on hopes of a favourable decision on the tunnel later this month.

Sally White

LATEST RESULTS

Company or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Dv pence	Pay date.	Year b total
Bridgeston Est (G)	—	6,133 (92)	6.15 (4.33)	1,851 (4.1)	—	3,522 (63)
Comfort Hotels (F)	24,092 (21,42)	0.41	0.01 (0.00)	0.40 (0.4)	—	0.41 (0)
T. Cowdray (F)	44 (44)	0.31 (0.19)	1,152 (0.6)	0.80 (0)	—	11.51 (0)
Gen Accident (F)	—	11,72 (19.3)	—	—	—	11.25 (0)
P. C. Henderson (F)	31,88 (28.28)	2,481 (1.46)	31.1 (17.0)	7,256 (75)	—	10.0 (8.0)
Lloyds Provincial (F)	0.50 (0.25)	2,30 (1.1)	0.9 (0.6)	1/7	2.71 (1.8)	
Mitre (F)	17,74 (16.64)	0.927 (0.605)	10.12 (6.23)	4,04 (0)	15/7	6,628 (4.95)
John Morrell (F)	271,02 (40.24)	7,80 (4.6)	30.62 (20.8)	9,62 (7.75)	—	10.6 (8.75)
1928 Inv Trust (F)	2,992 (6)	4,924 (4.83)	2.75 (—)	4,754 (4)	—	10.6 (8.75)
P. & O. (F)	3,070 (2,240)	40,954 (4.07)	21,929 (9)	7 (5)	—	4,510 (5)
J. Sainsbury (F)	1,851 (1,588)	85 (6.65)	23.74 (17.74)	6,45 (0)	23/7	9,757 (7.25)
Smith St Aubyn (F)	—	2,754 (3.44)	—	n/a (0)	—	—
N. American Inv. Trust (F)	—	1,107 (1.56)	6,786 (26)	4,25 (—)	—	6,256 (5.25)

Dividends in the table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net a—Loss b—First quarter c—Net



CHARTERHOUSE

The Charterhouse Group plc
1981

Mr Nigel Mobbs reports

The Group

The group made good progress in 1981 despite the worldwide recession. With the enlarged merchant bank under new direction and further divestment within the industrial sector a new, more aggressive strategy was pursued. There was, as a result, a substantial increase in the amount invested in new and existing companies in the United Kingdom, France and North America and this continues.

Results

Group profit before taxation increased by 40 per cent, a commendable performance in the depressed economic climate. The attributable profit after taxation suffered from a high tax charge caused by the non tax-relievable profit arising in overseas territories and in associated companies, notably Charterhouse Petroleum, which also suffered the first imposition of Supplementary Petroleum Duty.

Results in brief	1981	1980
Capital employed	158.4	143.2
Shareholders' funds	114.6	117.1
*Profit before interest	31.2	23.8
*Profit before taxation	22.6	16.1
*Profit after taxation before extraordinary items	11.0	11.7
Earnings per ordinary share	7.12p	9.64p
Dividends per ordinary share	4.925p	4.51p
Including the profit of the bank after transfer to inner reserve		

Dividend

The directors recommend an increased final dividend of 3.0 pence per Ordinary Share which, when aggregated with the interim payment, amounts to 4.925 pence for the year.

Investments

Profits from development capital activities were particularly encouraging in 1981. £14 million was invested in seventeen companies during the year in the United Kingdom, France and North America. The group continues to invest actively both as a minority and a majority shareholder. Although the recession continued, some companies managed to perform outstandingly well. Newage Engineers, which manufactures alternators, had an excellent year both at home and in its export markets. Building products, tool hire and the industrial distribution sector generally were badly hit but are now more optimistic about the future. In France, Groupe Expand, which provides promotional services for pharmaceutical companies, more than doubled its profits and continues to grow.

Banking

The bank's activities and strategy have been carefully reviewed and the management team strengthened by new appointments. The sale of Holding Financier, the holding company of the Swiss and French banking operations of Keyser Ullmann, was completed in September 1981. The Charterhouse Japhet Act, concerning the integration of Charterhouse Japhet and Keyser Ullmann, received Royal Assent in April 1981. This allowed all trading to be conducted in the name of Charterhouse Japhet with effect from the 1st June 1981.

The results for 1981 begin to reflect the benefits of the merger, including increased business opportunities resulting from the enlarged capital base. I have every confidence that we shall go from strength to strength in our now sizeable merchant bank.

The future

The planned strategy which the group has been developing in recent years is now beginning to produce success and a more aggressive investment policy is being pursued.

The strong operational performance of the group in 1981 arose from its policy of establishing a substantial merchant bank, creating a broadly based international investment portfolio, and supporting management with successful and proven track records. The wide range of the group's investments will continue to play an important part in its defence against unfavourable economic events.

Nigel Mobbs Chairman

Copies of the Annual Report of The Charterhouse Group plc are available from:
Group Communications Department, 25 Milk Street, London EC2V 8JE. Telephone (01) 606 7070.

Sainsbury still confounds the pessimists

Screen Kandu

With the purchase will go an estimated £5m of potential tax losses. BMK, which had been losing money since 1976 and once employed 1,500, now has a workforce of 200. This is likely to rise next month to 340 as the company starts work on a new order. Mr Logue expects to break even or show a modest profit for the year to next December on a turnover of about £120m.

BMK is now a 67 per cent owned subsidiary of his SAP group which he bought from the receiver in 1970 for £12,000.

£2.75m loss at St Aubyn

Smith St. Aubyn, the discount house which revealed £20m of losses on gilts in January after being badly caught out by rising interest rates, reported a £2.75m loss in the year to April 5 (Peter Wilson-Smith writes). The loss, which compares with a £3.4m profit the previous year, was struck after transferring out most of the group's hidden reserves and was also reduced by recovery of tax.

However, Smith has still ended the year in slightly better shape than some in the City festered. It made profits in the final quarter and seems to have benefited from the rise in the gilt market earlier this year. At one stage in January the group had a deficit in reserves and no hidden reserves; but by the year-end it had retained profits of £1.6m and, to prevent uncertainty, the group has taken the unusual step of disclosing up to £500,000 of hidden reserves.

After the £2.7m rights issue, Smith now has published capital and reserves of £8.6m compared with £9.3m in April 1981. Most of the previous year's huge gilt holdings have been liquidated and gilts in the balance sheet were down from £308m to £4.7m at the year-end. Bills discounted have risen from £211m to £301m, although total balance sheet footings have still contracted sharply from £605m to £363m.



Sir John and customers at the Nine Elms store yesterday.

To the casual observer, Sainsbury the food retailing group has more success than most for failure, (Anthony Hilton writes). Established well over 100 years, it is still firmly in the hands of its founding family, with three in the boardroom.

Worse, according to conventional wisdom, Sir John Sainsbury chairman and chief executive insists on being involved with every last detail of the company to the extent that, as one analyst put it, if a customer complains about a tin of sardines he calls the buyer in for an explanation.

Finally, the company is a pillar of the food business which means that in times of recession it should, if not suffer, at least struggle a little.

The real question is how much longer can it continue? An ebullient Sir John says the market is nowhere near to saturation, with scope for dozens of new stores in the north and improved outlets in the south.

But the cost will be high, with a planned capital spend of £150m this

year against £126m in 1981, probably too much to finance internally.

BMK carpets off the floor

Mr John Logue, the 52-year-old Lancastrian businessman who has bought a big part of high quality carpet group Blackwood Morton & Sons from its receivers, was the only person willing to take a chance in the beleaguered carpet industry when the company was advertised for sale (Philip Robinson writes).

Through his private group SAP, Mr Logue has bought BMK, makers of Axminster, Wilton and tufted carpets, whose former parent company went into receivership six

STATISTICS

UK RESERVES

End of Period	Sm	Em	Chg in Sm
1981			
March	29,212	12,583	-222
April	28,006	13,084	-145
May	26,487	12,793	-1,578
June	25,631	13,223	-856
July	25,586	13,294	-1,063
Aug	24,511	13,281	-57
Sept	23,986	13,088	-815
Oct	23,318	12,634	+147
Nov	23,463	11,971	+147
Dec	23,347	12,217	-116
1982			
Jan	23,225	12,331	-122
Feb	23,373	12,825	+148
March*	18,969	10,637	-4,404
April	18,559	10,105	-810

*Reserves revalued each year end March

COMMODITIES

COPPER Afternoon — Higher grade cash was weaker £27.73 00-00. Three months £49.03 0-3.50. Sales: 1,000,000; 1,000,000; 1,000,000; 1,000,000; 1,000,000. Three months £49.03 0-3.50. Sales: 1,000,000 tonnes. Morning — Cash standard £27.73 00-00. Three months £49.03 0-3.50. Sales: 1,000,000 tonnes. Settlement: £27.73 00-00. **SILVER** Afternoon — Cash £42.50 00 per tonne. Three months £50.00 00 per tonne. Sales: 1,000,000 tonnes. Settlement: £42.50 00 per tonne. **ZINC** Afternoon — Cash £42.50 00 per tonne. Three months £50.00 00 per tonne. Sales: 1,000,000 tonnes. Settlement: £42.50 00 per tonne. **PLATINUM** Afternoon — Cash £17.50 00 per ounce. Three months £20.00 00 per ounce. Sales: 500 lots. Settlement: £17.50 00 per ounce. **NIICKEL** Afternoon — Cash £24.50 per tonne. Three months £24.50 per tonne. Sales: 1,000,000 tonnes. Settlement: £24.50 per tonne. **COFFEE** Robusta 1c per tonne: May 12/24-12/25; July 11/11-11/12; Sept 10/10-10/11; Dec 10/10-10/11; Mar 10/10-10/

APPOINTMENTS

Three join central TSB board

Mr Neville R Barkes, chairman TSB North East, Mr Kenneth A Milliechap, chairman TSB North West and Mr Peter J Cook, general manager TSB Wales & Border Counties have been made directors of Central Trustee Savings Bank (CTS).

Mr Tom Mayer is the new president of the Electronics Engineering Association. Mr Mayer is chairman and managing director of Thorn EMI Electronics.

Mr Roy Haines has been appointed to the new position of deputy treasurer of National Westminster Bank's International Banking Division.

Mr Dennis Webb has been promoted to finance director and company secretary of the Charles Clark Motor Group after eight years as group chief accountant.

Mr Joe Diedrich has been named as president of PHH International, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PHH Group Incorporated.

Mr John Steffington has become a director of Cayzer, Irvine Shipyards. Mr B. Rombough has been appointed chief executive officer of PanCanadian Petroleum. Mr Robert Campbell, formerly chairman and chief executive officer, will continue as chairman.

Mr Dermot de Trafford, deputy chairman of Low & Bonar is to become chairman of the group on June 1.

Mr Yves Bonavero has joined the partnership of E. D. & F. M.

Mr Gordon Wileman of Nestle has been elected treasurer of the Automatic Vending Association of Great Britain. Mr Ian Plummer of City Vending has been reelected chairman of the association. Mr Roger Thomas of Mars Money Systems Division and Mr Mike Bellon of Lin Pac Plastic Containers, have been elected to the association's board of management.

Mr J. A. Club will become executive vice-president of the British Scrap Federation on June 1, succeeding Mr R. S. Boat who will be a consultant to the federation.

Mr Jack Watmough has retired from the boards of Watmoughs Limited and Bridge Graphics. He will remain deputy chairman of Watmoughs (Holdings). Mr Colin Maughan becomes deputy chairman of Watmoughs Limited. Mr Douglas Greaves has retired from the boards of Watmoughs (Holdings) and D. H. Greaves. He will become a consultant to Watmoughs (Holdings).

Mr Leonard Humphrey, managing director of Humphrey Scaffolding (Brighton), has been elected president of the National Association of Scaffolding Contractors.

Construction: the slow build-up

Channel tunnels and the odd power station apart there is little to cheer Britain's hard-pressed construction industry. Cutbacks in North Sea oil development and public sector spending have all taken their toll on previously ambitious plans.

Regarded as a reliable economic barometer, most parts of the industry are showing few immediate signs of recovery. Yet within the gloom which has threatened to suffocate builders a few glimmers of light can be seen breaking through the swelling ranks of unemployed construction workers and idle equipment.

Housebuilding in particular is at last on the increase. Figures released today by the Department of the Environment will show a continuing rise in the number of houses being built.

There is also evidence of improving performance by major companies. Recently Tarmac produced results ahead of market expectations with pretax profits advancing by some 19 per cent to a record £52.1m on turnover only marginally ahead at £918m.

The downside of all this is that while the building groups are looking fitter, albeit leaner, material suppliers and producers are still convalescing. Blue Circle, for example, points out how producer's margins have been under extreme pressure during the last year or so.

And the interim workload survey from the civil engineering contractors does not exactly paint a picture of health, vitality and optimism. The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors quarterly report indicates that workload continues to decline although at a slower rate than the industry has become accustomed to since the late 1970s.

What precious little confidence actually exists in among major companies is almost exclusively among those tendering for repair and maintenance contracts.

Perhaps surprisingly, when seen against the background of company results, total output in the construction industry declined by about 12 per cent last year. A level which, according to one of the leading construction analysts Savory Millin, will be maintained in the current year.

What has saved most construction groups from turning in disappointing figures has been a lower inflation rate in the industry than had been originally forecast. Most contractors had budgeted for fairly hefty rises in labour and material costs in 1981 — something which did not happen. With the exception of roof tiles most materials increased by less than the general rate of inflation.

But as Savory Millin point out the official figures disguise many of the massive discounts offered by suppliers and producers in order to maintain volume and keep down stock levels. Although official brick prices rose by around 13 per cent in 1981 the actual increase paid by end users was very much less. So, in a sense contractors were cushioned from the full effects of a poor construction year.

The gravity-defying act performed

A series of better-than-expected profits from publicly-quoted construction companies and relatively buoyant house-building statistics have fuelled optimism about a recovery in the industry. Much of the sector — generally thought to be a bell-wether for the economy — is still however suffering from a deep recession with little immediate hope of relief. Baron Phillips assesses the state of the industry.



by contractors in 1981 is unlikely to continue in 1982-83. Tender prices declined by about one per cent last year — and as the civil engineers survey points out, there are fewer invitations to tender — which would come through in company results over the next two years.

Perhaps more important will be the pressure from producers and suppliers to increase their margins and ease the financial noose which has been hanging around their necks. There is a distinct feeling within the industry that it is bracing itself for some fairly hefty price rises during the year. And, of course, just as the real decline in costs was disguised last year, so official increases in 1982 are likely to be modified.

At the same time construction projects have been hitting deadlines with greater frequency. Rising unemployment in the industry has meant a freely available and willing workforce on tap. This has also had the effect of keeping wage rates in line with inflation, the worst and a lot lower at best. Buildings going up quicker have had the effect of keeping finance charges under control.

Against this background at least one sector of the industry is leading the charge into long term healthier profits. In 1980 private sector housing hit an all-time low with

starts around 96,000 despite a buoyant property market. Last year house builders began construction on 21 per cent more homes and this year the figure is likely to rise to about 135,000, although more optimistic industry pundits believe it may be as much as 140,000. There is even expected to be an increase in the amount of local authority housing from last year's 36,000 units to around 40,000.

HOUSEBUILDING '000 units			
1973	328.5	1978	264.7
1974	252.1	1979	225.2
1975	322.9	1980	154.0
1976	325.4	1981	153.2
1977	266.9	1982	175.0*
*Projection			

This trend is underlined in the Department of the Environment's latest construction orders figures. Total orders for new work in the three months to February were similar to the previous quarter but 4 per cent lower than than the same period a year ago. Hidden within the Government statistics was the surprising trend of public housing work which was ahead by 11 per cent over the earlier three months and a staggering 78 per cent higher than a year ago.

The recovery however is from an abysmally low level. Money allocated for this work has crashed dramatically from £51m (at constant 1975 seasonally adjusted prices) in 1978 to only £34.2m last year. This has been the direct result of Government policy to switch housing resources away from the public to private sector.

Construction companies continue to be extremely concerned about falling orders from the public sector. Although the Chancellor announced a 14 per cent increase in capital expenditure to more than £10,250m in the Budget the industry believed it was an almost meaningless rise because it came from a low base and because there has been a growing reluctance on the part of local authorities to spend money.

It is estimated that as much as £700m is kept in local authority coffers which could be available for new public works. But this money is unlikely to find its way into capital expenditure account as councils are eager to keep down current costs.

It is volume housebuilders like Barratt Developments, Wimpey, Tarmac Ideal and Bovis who can expect improved activity and profits during the present year. The sector has already undergone a major shake up as high interest rates, falling prices and soaring unemployment destroyed complacency. For the first time builders had to go out and sell houses rather than simply build them and wait for buyers to walk on to a site.

The other glimmer on the horizon is the amount of repair and maintenance work available for companies. According to Savory Millin the outturn in this sector in 1981-82 is estimated to be £1,850m and should rise to just under £2,000m in the present year. These figures of course relate to publicly accounted contracts covering major works, but the real figure is thought to be around the £3,800m level when the less easily definable private housing repair and maintenance work is included.

Overseas the general picture is equally gloomy. Falling oil prices have meant a drastic reduction of spending on capital projects by Opec members, especially in the Middle East, Nigeria and Mexico. As our major ring groups like Costain and Taylor Woodrow have discovered, they must search farther afield for work and competition is becoming extremely intense as the world recession bites hard.

Even so companies like Tarmac illustrate that there is work on the international market and that it can be profitable. Materials producers such as Blue Circle received a major contribution to profits from its international uplift coming from its operation in North America. On the home front the group is looking for further redundancies which will lop off 30 per cent of its workforce since the start of the last financial year.

The worst may be over for the construction industry, but there is unlikely to be any serious rise in business over the next 18 months.

C. Gordon Tether

When the tail wags the dog

There is a growing demand on both sides of the Atlantic for an inquiry into the implications for the world's financial markets if foreign debts some countries have been encouraged to build up by the enthusiasm of the banking community for lending them money. But the probe into the sudden indebtedness issue should not stop here.

It should also look at a closely related question. It concerns tendency for the fast rise in debt totals to create situations where the need for a high priority in financial consideration in policymaking is such that the international financial tail is apt to be found wagging the international political dog.

It was reported last week that influential members of Congress, including Mr Henry Reuss, chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, were calling for hearings on the "ability of the banks to make large international loans without seriously undermining the world's financial structure".

Many commentators in this country have been making the same point — that the time may have come to impose restraints on the lending activities of the banking community.

What has attracted much less attention is the extent to which the banks' lending excesses are beginning to complicate the political decision-making process.

Vocal

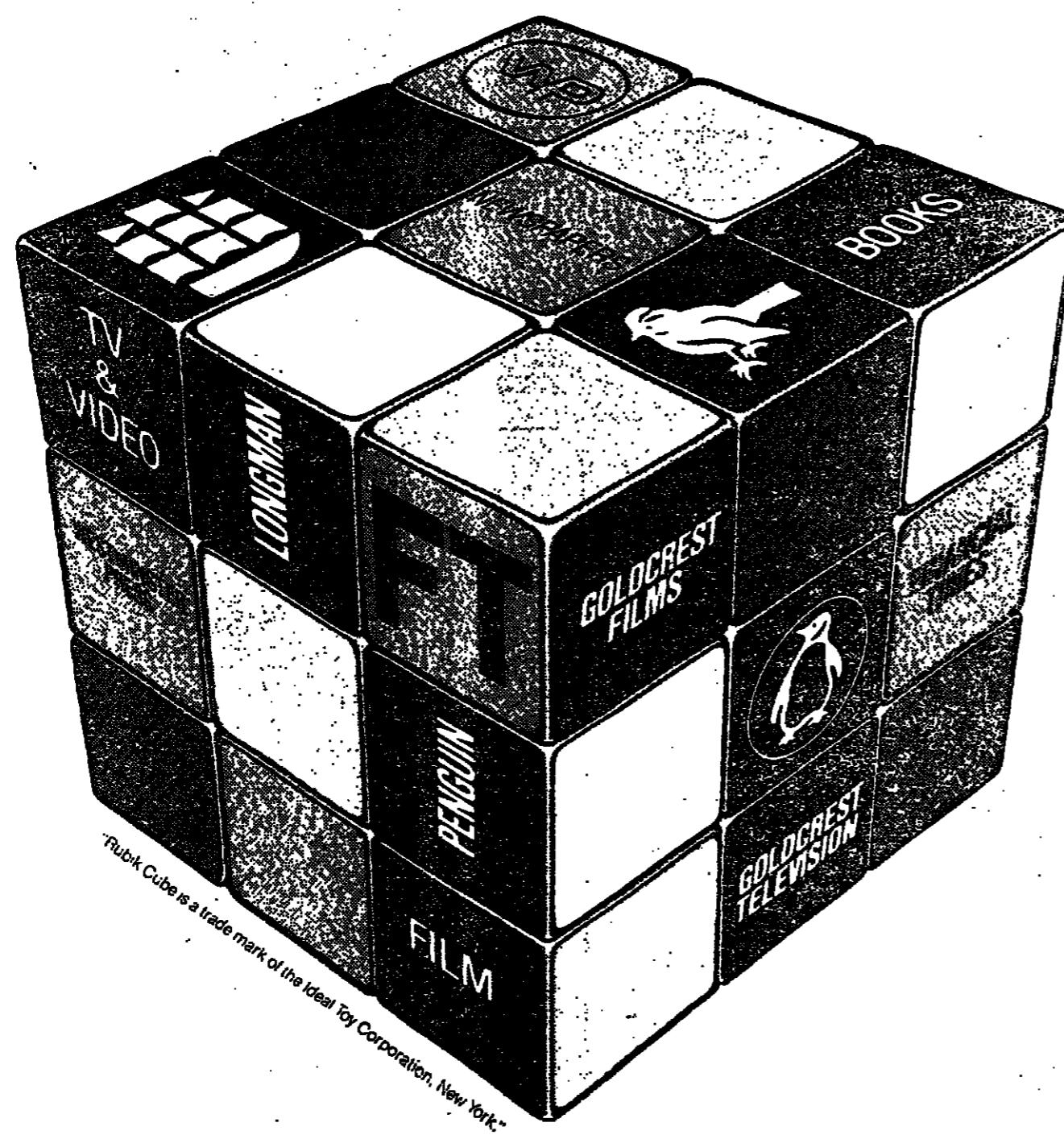
It has to be said that there have been two occasions in recent years on which officialdom showed no willingness to allow international financial considerations to deter it from pursuing political purposes. The United States authorities established a "discussion exclusion zone" round their decision to freeze Iranian assets in retaliation for the seizure of the embassy hostages.

The British authorities have acted in exactly the same way in the Falklands crisis.

But there has not been the same readiness to exclude the foreign indebtedness factor from the debate on what attitude the West could most appropriately adopt towards the international political issues raised by events in Poland. The financial communities

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Making the right moves



- Penguin and Longman both set new records
- Financial Times returns to profit as European edition passes 34,000
- Longman enters legal publishing with Oyez
- Goldcrest builds the team to lead the British film industry
- Pearson Longman starts Goldcrest Television and takes a stake in Yorkshire TV
- Westminster Press free publications now reach 1.6 million homes
- Goldcrest links with Penguin and Longman in two new video publishing ventures

In 1981 Puffin Books published 'You can do the Cube' by Patrick Bossert and Penguin Books published 'Mastering Rubik's Cube' by Don Taylor. Both were worldwide best-sellers. Goldcrest Television then produced a prizewinning video cassette featuring Patrick Bossert called 'You too can do the Cube'.

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Please send me a copy of the 1981 Annual Report

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

Hugh Mackay

Manufacturers of Durham Carpets

Sales
Profit (loss) before tax

At the Annual General Meeting on May 12th

The carpet industry's competitive edge

Although the market is

with world markets

to the rest of the

market

the company's

and its

the company's

PROFIT UP
35.5%PRODUCTIVITY
UP 3.4%STAFF
PROFIT
SHARING
£5.7m

RESULTS 1981-82

Salient points from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir John Sainsbury:

□ The sales increase of 22.7% represents a volume growth of 13% with volume in existing stores up by 6%.

□ We now serve more than five million customers a week, an increase of 23% over two years.

□ Our prices during the last year were even more competitive than the year before.

□ For the fifth year in succession our supermarkets' sales per square foot at "constant prices" increased, bringing the weekly figure to £12—well over twice the average in the trade.

□ Productivity in terms of sales per employee improved by a further 3.4%, bringing the increase in five years to 28.5%. This has been made possible in large part by the scale of our investment programme which last year rose to the highest ever at £126 million.

Sketchley bids for US firm

Just a few days after its bid for Means, the American cleaning company, was defeated, Sketchley has offered \$13m (£7m) cash for Rentex another American cleaning and rental business.

Mr Gerald Wightman, Sketchley's chairman, said that the offer for Rentex had been considered before the unsuccessful attempt on Means. The offer for Means was worth more than \$40m. The new offer prices Rentex, a public company, at \$13 a share.

The bid for Means was defeated by the higher offer from another American company, ARA Services, but Sketchley is less likely to be thwarted this time. About 58 per cent of the Rentex equity is controlled by the Gillett family, which has agreed to sell. Under the laws of the state of Delaware, in which Rentex is incorporated, take over the remainder.

Rentex rents workwear and linen to businesses and hospitals in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, California, Florida and Oregon. Its headquarters are in Philadelphia.

During the year to the end of last November, Rentex had a net income of \$1.2m from revenues of \$38.7m. Share-

February in spite of almost no real increase in sales.

Dividends for the year are being increased from 11.42p gross to 14.25p a share, with a 10.39p final distribution against the 10p minimum level forecast by the board at the time of February's £4.9m purchase of Normand Electrical.

Normand, which manufactures electric motors, was loss making at the time, but it has returned to profitability with demand improving for its products.

Henderson's traditional sliding door gear and garage door divisions performed well during the year and a strong performance from subsidiaries in New Zealand, Norway and South Africa boosted the overseas contribution to profits from 19 per cent to 29 per cent.

But the industrial door division again experienced shrinking demand in the United Kingdom and earned a lower return on capital in the past year.

The improved profits and stock reductions generated a positive cash flow of more than £2m. After adjustment for the cash element of the Normand purchase year end borrowings were less than 20 per cent of shareholders funds.

Since the year end the purchase of Normand has been completed and the executive teams of both groups are working at realizing the potential of the merger.

The motor division saw a better performance as a result of its reorganization, and not through any improvement in overall trading conditions, he said. Full year profitability was expected in the coach and travel division after a dramatic turnaround from last year, and even the hard-pressed agricultural division was showing signs of full year profitability.

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Cindico over
the counter

Benefits of change

In his statement to shareholders, Sir Anthony Tuke said:

"Multinationals have been subjected to a great deal of criticism over the past few years, much of it ideological in origin and much of it ill-informed. It is, however, right that corporations should review their responsibilities and make certain that their policies are correct and in tune with current thinking. It is not enough for international companies to shelter behind the laws of the country in which they invest; their responsibilities go beyond that. No government would, however, accept a foreign investor who deliberately stated his intention of flouting the laws of the land and the OECD guidelines for multinational corporations specifically enjoin those corporations to obey the laws of the countries where they operate."

If a corporation finds local conditions and attitudes unacceptable it has the option of refraining from investing in that country as it would do if the fiscal and financial climate were not sufficiently attractive. Withdrawing from an existing operation is much more difficult and may achieve little as local investors could take it over, maybe with less internationally acceptable standards and policies.

Any foreign investor has a clear responsibility to its employees and their families and, in the case of a mining company, to the local community, especially the indigenous population. The question both we as investors and the people who will be affected by a new operation must ask is, whether the benefits of a major investment outweigh the disadvantages change may bring.

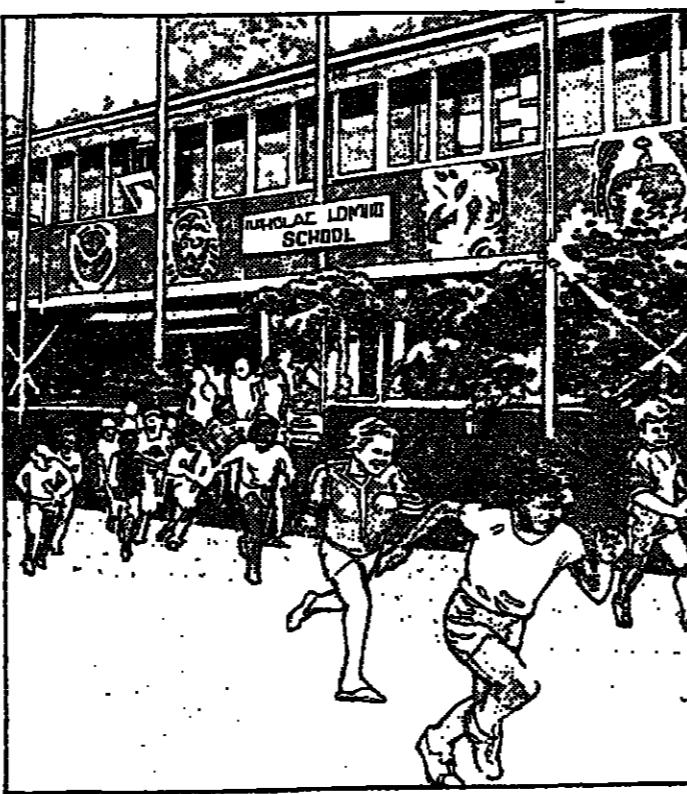
We do believe that the advantages overwhelmingly outweigh the disadvantages as we see the rising standards of living in the areas where we operate. These are evidenced by the high quality of housing, education, health and medical care, training and opportunity for advancement, as well as benefits to the wider community, especially in third world countries, of new sources of revenue and foreign exchange, together with educational and training opportunities from the independent foundations that have been established locally from the profits earned.



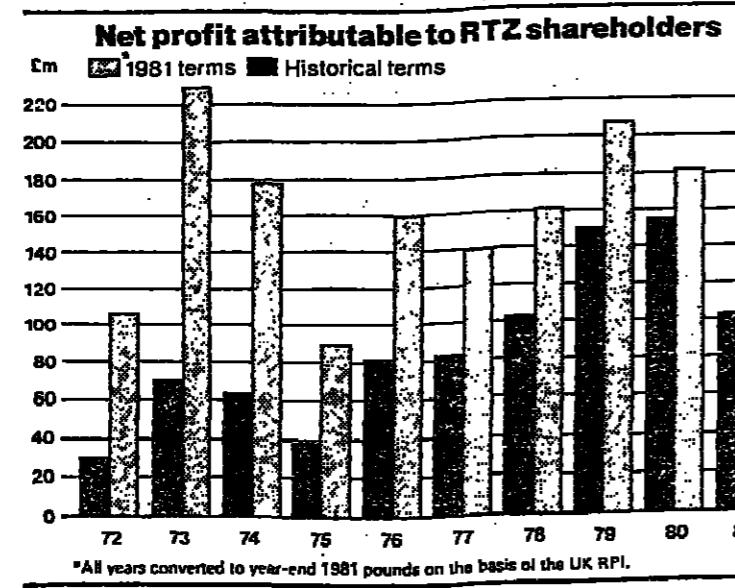
Growing vegetables in the back garden is one of the new skills taught by the Rössing Foundation to families in Namibia.



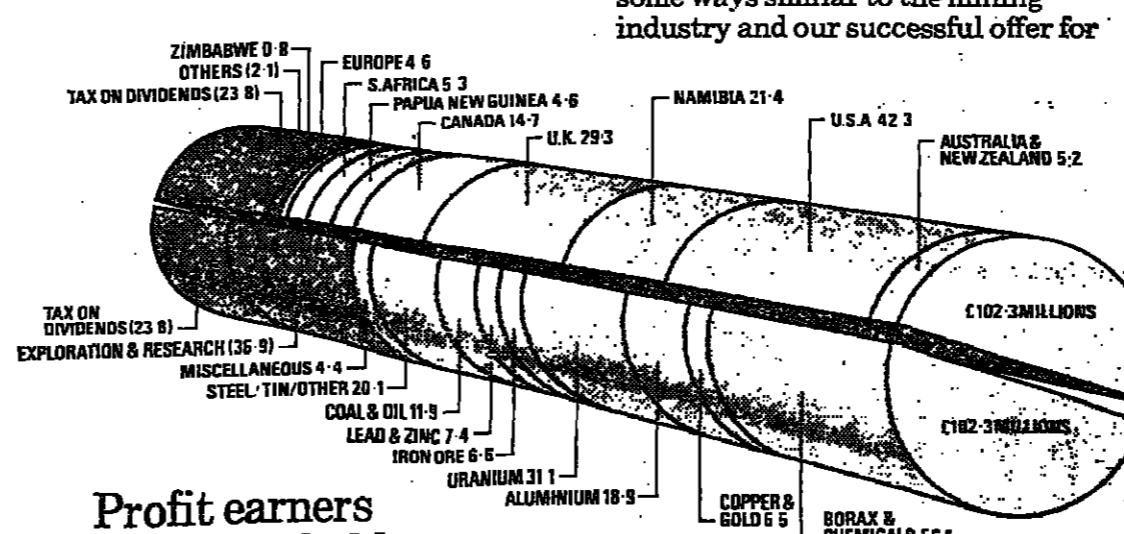
The highest standards of medical care are provided at group activities, particularly in less developed areas.



Educational opportunities at all levels for employees, their families and the wider community are an integral part of our operations.



Profit earners for RTZ shareholders



The Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation PLC

RTZ

If you would like a copy of the full RTZ annual report please write to: Group Public Affairs Department, 6 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LD.

Fact sheets on various aspects of the corporation's activities will be available from 3rd June.

Anthony Tuke
Chairman

Australianisation

Some three years ago we agreed that the majority Australian ownership in CRA should be achieved over a period through the reduction of our interest to 49 per cent. This change in our shareholding will take place in the context of sound commercial development and investment and at that level our investment will have expanded in dollar terms. The authorities in Australia have been helpful and we are not under any pressure. We anticipate that during the next few years the RTZ interest will fall to 49 per cent but we do not expect any material change in the profits available to shareholders from Australia.

Ward and Tunnel

One of the reasons for the 1980 rights issue was to enable the corporation to expand its activities in this country. The cement industry is in some ways similar to the mining industry and our successful offer for

Ward brought with it control of Tunnel: the subsequent bid for Tunnel at an agreed price has become unconditional. The management of RTZ regard the bringing together of these two important companies as a priority during the next few months.

Future Outlook

In some respects the economic forecasts of early 1982 are similar to those made a year ago but there is reason to believe last year's dismal pattern will not be repeated. Past experience suggests that prices would be unlikely to remain as weak for an extended period even if demand were to stagnate throughout the year. Hence any modest revival of final demand, or any improvement in business confidence, should fairly swiftly affect metal markets and the RTZ Group's low cost mines would benefit accordingly."

Babcock

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS

	1981 £m	1980 £m
TURNOVER	955.8	873.0
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	14.1	15.2
PROFIT attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	5.0	5.7
EARNINGS PER SHARE	6.1p	5.9p
DIVIDEND PER SHARE	7.0p	7.0p

Sir John King, Chairman, reports:-

- * Strong positive cash flow.
- * Improved operating efficiency.
- * Currently better business outlook.
- * 1981 dividend maintained at 7p per share.

Copies of the Annual Report may be obtained from
The Secretary, Cleveland House, St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4LN.

Babcock International plc
A LEADER IN WORLD-WIDE ENGINEERING



Lord Boyd-Carpenter

The following are extracts from the speech to shareholders by The Rt. Hon. Lord Boyd-Carpenter, DL, Chairman.

In my speech last year the essence of the message which I tried to convey was my confidence that we could and would survive the combined impact of a world depression and a low level of activity in the construction industry in the United Kingdom. In hard weather it is the hardy who survive. But I certainly would not last year have dared to suggest that I expected that in 1981 we should produce higher pre-tax profits than those of 1980. Yet this is what I can now report.

I think it is useful to seek to analyse why this has been so. First we have made vigorous efforts to improve our service to customers. We have had in mind the truth of the placard which I saw recently in the plant of which we are part owners in Pennsylvania, "CUSTOMERS MAKE PAY DAY POSSIBLE". This has been successful to the extent that it helped to offset the fall in demand so far as our Company was concerned. Secondly, we have been able to contain our costs by concentrating our production effort on our energy economical new plant. This new plant has involved very heavy capital investment notably at our Rochester and Southam Works. This investment has turned out to have been well-timed. It is helping us to keep our costs down through a period of depression. And it has provided a reserve of capacity to enable us to take full advantage of the recovery when it comes.

CEMENT MANUFACTURE IN THE U.K.

1981 began with the same low level of demand which had been experienced in the latter part of 1980. In the second half of the year there was a modest upturn but sufficient to confirm my forecast in our half-yearly statement that the reduction in Group profits in the first half of the year would be "more than offset by the end of the year". But with the severe weather in December bringing most sites to a standstill the year finished on a disappointing note.

Nevertheless, recent developments and modernisation at our works enabled the Company to meet the fluctuating demand pattern for bulk and packed cement with a high standard of service. Particular progress was made with the handling and delivery of packed cement and results fully justified the high capital cost of installing automatic loading and palletising facilities.

Since the weather improved, demand has improved with it.

OVERSEAS

Our Australian subsidiary, Cockburn Cement Limited, has had a somewhat mixed year although its results for 1981 show an improvement on 1980 both in terms of profit and in cement and lime sales – indeed, the tonnage of cement delivered during this year was the highest since 1978. The first shipment of cement in bulk was made to the new Darwin Depot late in September last year. There is every indication that the Northern Territory will develop into an important and useful additional market for Cockburn Cement.

The Parmelia Hotel increased its contribution to the Group's profit by 40%, although half of this improvement was due to the strengthening of the Australian dollar against sterling.

In the United States, despite the effects of the present recession on the construction industry in the North East of the U.S.A., our newly acquired associated company, U.S. Cement Inc., through its 100% subsidiary, Hercules Cement Company, succeeded in improving both its sales and its share of the market.

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

During the late spring and early summer the cement industry as a whole

Financial disruption could spread beyond Argentina

Latin America piles up debts

In just two years time, the economic forecast for the South American and central American nations has turned from bright to bleak as the world recession has cut into exports and political unrest in a number of countries has escalated.

Now that there is the threat of a costly and possibly prolonged war involving Argentina, conditions in these closely-linked developing nations are all the more uncertain.

If the British naval blockade is extended for example, there could be severe economic consequences in other countries.

This is just one of a number of unsettling possibilities being considered by officials in international lending organizations at present reviewing the sharp deterioration in the economies of countries south of the United States border.

The Falklands conflict has spotlighted economic problems in this part of the world as it has become apparent to international lenders that a huge financial disruption in

Debts of Latin American and Central American countries, June, 1981, in millions of dollars

Country	Total claims	Claims On:			Maturity of Claims:		
		Bank	Public bonds	Other private	1 year	1 to 5	Over 5
Argentina	7483.3	2464.7	2106.9	2911.7	4961.5	1887.8	623.9
Bolivia	457.7	55.0	249.1	153.6	205.4	220.6	31.6
Brazil	15188.4	5689.5	4788.4	4411.3	6994.3	5214.6	2880.2
Chile	4701.3	2582.2	706.3	1412.8	2367.0	1506.4	837.8
Colombia	2594.6	1012.4	605.4	976.7	1769.6	470.5	354.4
Costa Rica	592.7	74.2	244.5	373.9	337.1	203.7	46.8
Dominican Rep	489.9	122.3	271.0	95.4	266.1	183.9	19.9
Ecuador	1864.1	521.9	581.5	780.6	113.8	578.4	170.7
El Salvador	101.3	20.1	21.5	59.7	70.1	30.1	1.0
Guatemala	241.2	21.4	20.3	198.9	146.1	86.5	8.6
Honduras	274.9	24.5	80	169.5	173.6	88.1	15.2
Jamaica	190.4	13.0	157.1	20.3	72.0	100.9	7.5
Mexico	18101.2	3129.8	5345.5	9626.7	10607.0	4846.9	2557.2
Nicaragua	423.7	85.7	298.3	44.6	182.0	48.3	193.3
Paraguay	271.1	10.1	110.2	150.7	141.5	92.6	36.9
Peru	1783.6	702.5	811.7	269.4	1263.4	42.3	92.8
Trinidad/Tobago	115.9	4.4	101.0	10.4	28.9	76.0	11.0
Uruguay	1188.7	1068.1	30.5	88.9	1156.1	30.4	2.2
Venezuela	20776.0	5325.2	7921.6	7529.0	14058.0	5312.5	103.3

one country such as Argentina could have an adverse effect on several others.

At present, there are several Latin American countries whose short term debt exposure worries World Bank and International Monetary Fund officials.

They agreed to be interviewed by *The Times* on a background only basis.

Mexico, for example, which was riding high on oil revenues until just a year ago is being cut off by big banks worried by its short-term debt load and unwilling to make new loans there.

Argentina's shaky financial position has been well publicized, but less well known are the economic problems of once-booming countries such

as Chile and Peru which have raged inflation and sharply declining exports.

Brazil's massive external debt – much of it due for repayment over the next year – has been cause for worry for some time and now even oil-rich Venezuela, faced with the world energy glut, is experiencing problems.

For any central American country such as Costa Rica, the situation is even worse.

The United States Export Import Bank, for example, has stopped making loans there altogether because the Government has been forced to ask both private and government lenders to reschedule its debt. Again, the economic problems of the war-torn countries of El Salvador and Nicaragua are better known.

Overall, economic conditions in this part of the world are more dismal than even at present. June 1981 debt figures revealed a growing worse daily, in the opinion of a Latin American specialist with the United States Commerce Department.

The French group, Sipol Battalopes, announced a consolidated net profit of Fr114m (£10.4m) for 1981 against Fr91m the previous year. Parent company net profit was Fr65.6m (£Fr5.3m) and the dividend has been fixed at Fr1.25.

The company is to raise its capital to Fr192.7m this year.

Thomson-Brandt, the recently nationalized electrical and electronic group, reported the first loss in its history of Fr1.2m.

The group said its 1981 consolidated accounts will show a loss of Fr180m (£16.4m) despite a 9.5 per cent increase in sales to Fr43.80m. The electronics offshoot, Thomson-CSF and its subsidiaries, accounted for Fr80m of the loss.

Net profit of the Australian Finance Group Esanda increased by 8.9 per cent to A\$18m (£11.2m) for the six months

to March 31. Esanda is the wholly-owned subsidiary of ANZ Bank, one of the largest in Australia.

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Magri the falling angel, trailing cotton-wool clouds

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

A question mark as big as a Mexican hat hangs over the career of Charlie Magri, Britain's European flyweight champion. His defeat in the ninth round of his bout with Jose Torres, of Tucson, leaves me in no doubt about Magri's inability to take a punch and with some concern for his well-being, should he find himself in the ring with some other Mexican with a whiplash punch.

Admittedly any blow well placed on the point of the chin will flatten most men but the blow that put Magri's future in danger was not a classic knockout blow. It landed full on the right side of the head and rather high. Down he went.

Nor is Torres a hard puncher. Which must have been more than a little disturbing for friends and followers and British Boxing Board of Control officials alike.

Particularly alarming was how much Magri's boxing has fallen off. He seems perpetually to be fighting his way through a huge cloud of cotton-wool. At this level he does not seem to be able to control a bout and more often than not finds himself being bulldozed against the ropes.

As far as the contest the board will be looking at Magri's performance together with those of others who took part in Tuesday's show at Wembley Arena. Since the boxer's welfare comes first with the board, I would like to think hard about Magri's future.

Magri and his manager, Terry Lawless, are also pondering the matter. In the meantime Magri must automatically have an enforced 21 days' rest from boxing. After that, as is customary, he will have a complete neurological check-up.

I hope that after that period he will not feel inclined to defend his European title against Enrique Cal, of Spain, whom he stopped in one round in 1981. He may have to go abroad for that, as not many people would pay to see him fight in Britain. The London Boxing in Spain will do his confidence no good. Besides, if he wins he may feel like climbing back up the world rankings. From fourth he will either fall to the bottom of the top 10 or end up in the picture. That would do him no good either.

Tony Sibson is to take three months' rest after his successful European middleweight title defence against Jacques Chinou, of France. Sibson has a suspected broken metacarpal in his



Magri: Rest and checkup

right hand and his arm is in plaster. He was not impressive in view of his damaged hand he could be excused.

He is likely to be back in action in September against the tough Syrian, Mustapha Hamso. Sam Burns, Sibson's manager, said: "I think Magry [sic] is still testing a fight. Hamso has taken it with both hands. Sibson cannot get to Hagler until the end of the year and if he cannot beat Hamso he should not be fighting Hagler, anyway".

Rudi Koopmans' defence of the European light heavyweight title against Christiano Cavinha has been postponed for a second time. The Dutchman will meet the Italian in Montecatini Terme, near Florence, on June 2.

Hearns injury delays challenge

The world middleweight title fight between the champion, Marvin Hagler, and Thomas Hearns will be postponed from May 24 because of an injury to Hearns' finger. Emanuel Steward, Hearns' manager and trainer, believes July 13 is the date for which the bout could be rescheduled.

Hearns, a volunteer auxiliary police officer, injured the finger about 10 days ago when he fell after training at the Detroit police department's gymnasium. The former world Boxer-of-the-Year lightweight champion continued his sparring workouts, but the finger apparently became infected, Steward said. Hearns was due to meet Hagler in Windsor, Ontario. — AP.

RUGBY UNION

Wakefield, the cocks of the north, are crowing

By David Hands

The decision of the Rugby Union to allow clubs for projected national league system for at least five years may give a somewhat enhanced emphasis to the final regional merit tables. Voting by member clubs to an RU questionnaire on the subject showed a slim majority of 355 against 353 in favour of the move, although it is possible that some senior clubs may give more time to chewing on this particular bone of contention.

Meanwhile Wakefield have cause to crow over their jump from twelfth place in the Northern merit table to the head. Last year they were fifth with a 100 per cent record; this year they are best in Wakefield, who made it something of a local double by beating Sheffield in the final of the Yorkshire Cup.

Wakefield's success — their only blemish was against Fylde — is the culmination of a reorganization of their playing strength over the last five years and it is a comforting thought that the team that won their leading team title over 28 years ago, Robin Foster, their secretary, attributes their fine season to an outlook which is almost South Welsh. "All the children in whatever school round here play with an oval-shaped ball, whether they are directed towards Rugby Union or Rugby League", he said yesterday.

Some of those maturing youngsters helped Yorkshire to a surprise win over Lancashire — ultimately the county champions this season and one of them, the young Harrisson Harrison and the other wing, testimony to the fluid style of play cultivated by Wakefield and their panel of coaches, headed by a deputy headmaster at the Silcoates School, Mike Ellford, who is to coach the senior Yorkshire side next season in succession to Alan Old.

Not that all is sweetness and light in Yorkshire circles. The Northern major clubs are still waiting for the RU's reply to a letter expressing some concern that the only Yorkshire club to be selected for the new Senior

Final tables

LONDON DIVISION

P W D L F A %

London Irish 8 7 0 0 0 115 55 100

London Welsh 8 6 0 0 218 88 75 70

London Scottish 8 5 0 0 214 88 76 70

Rosehill Park 8 5 0 0 149 89 55 56

Blackheath 9 5 0 0 89 112 55 56

Richmond 9 5 0 0 101 123 55 56

Saracens 8 1 0 0 7 9 167 55 56

Met Police 8 0 0 0 7 9 167 55 56

SOUTH/SOUTH WEST DIVISION

P W D L F A %

Bristol 8 7 0 0 119 45 87 50

Chester 8 6 0 0 119 50 87 50

Plymouth 8 5 0 0 119 50 87 50

Cardiff 8 3 0 0 3 44 75 50 50

Rosehill Park 8 3 0 0 3 43 92 50 50

Harlequins 8 2 0 0 119 50 87 50

Exeter 8 0 0 0 119 50 87 50

NORTHERN DIVISION

P W D L F A %

Wakefield 8 7 0 0 112 102 87 50

Grovehill 8 6 0 0 111 50 83 53

Leeds 8 5 0 0 111 50 83 53

Orrell 10 6 0 0 414 114 60 60

Broughton Park 10 5 0 0 416 120 56 56

Kirkstall 12 6 0 0 616 120 56 56

Harrogate 12 6 0 0 616 120 56 56

Malton 10 6 0 0 68 73 44 44

Salts 10 4 1 0 514 132 45 45

Roeburton 9 2 0 0 510 132 44 44

Wetherby 10 3 0 0 512 137 40 40

York 11 2 0 0 714 131 36 36

Northumbria 11 3 0 0 610 160 36 36

Headingley 2 2 0 0 5 78 107 31 21

Marlboro 2 2 0 0 5 78 107 31 21

Harrogate Ladies 2 2 0 0 5 78 107 31 21

Final table

P W D L F A %

Leeds 11 7 0 0 119 50 87 50

Broughton Park 10 6 0 0 414 114 60 60

Harrogate 10 5 0 0 416 120 56 56

Orrell 10 4 1 0 514 132 45 45

Malton 10 3 0 0 510 132 44 44

Salts 10 2 0 0 512 137 40 40

Roeburton 10 1 0 0 514 137 40 40

York 10 0 0 0 514 137 40 40

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Harrogate 10 5 0 0 416 120 56 56

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Roeburton 10 1 0 0 514 137 40 40

York 10 0 0 0 514 137 40 40

Northumbria 10 0 0 0 514 137 40 40

Headingley 10 0 0 0 514 137 40 40

Marlboro 10 0 0 0 514 137 40 40

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Broughton Park 10 6 0 0 414 114 60 60

Harrogate 10 5 0 0 416 120 56 56

Orrell 10 4 1 0 514 132 45 45

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Final table

P W D L F A %

Leeds 11 7 0 0 119 50 87 50

Broughton Park 10 6 0 0 414 114 60 60

DEATHS
KELGUS said... I am come that they might have life and that they might have abundance. —St John 3:19.

BIRTHS

ADMIRAL — On April 29th at his residence in London, 10 Grosvenor Gardens, 1st son, Anthony Edward.
EDWARD — On April 29th at the Royal Marsden Hospital to Sally and daughter.
BUCHANAN — On May 3rd to Carlotta and Michael — a son, Richard, a daughter, Rosemary.

CARROLL — On 14th April 1982, in Folkestone, to Rachel (see Lahey), wife of Eric, late father of Anton (Brinsford), a brother to Sally and a daughter.

CARTER — On April 29th at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, in Chichester, her husband and Robert — a son, Peter Edward.

CLARKE — On April 30th, to her husband, Alan, and daughter of Croydon and Fakenham — a son, Paul Christopher.

CODD — On April 30th, at 4.40 pm, on April 30th, 1982, to Sarah and Stephen, their son "Tom" was born. "A child of love".

DELANEY — On 6th April, Carter (see Lahey), wife of Tony, son, Michael, daughter, Linda, and a son, Espy.

ESPEY — On May 3rd to Celia and a son, Michael — a son, Tony, and a daughter, Linda.

FINDLAY — On April 29th to Caroleen (see Mitchell) — a son, David.

FYFE-WALKER — On April 22nd to Gubriele and Richard — a son, Matthew.

GLAVER — On April 25th to Jessica (see Lucas and John) — a daughter.

HOWORTH — On May 4th at home to France — Isaac Samson — a son, Michael, a daughter, Linda, and Isaac Samson — a brother for Georgia.

JOSYE — On 1st May, at The West End Hospital, to John, Sandra, and Hardard — a daughter.

LAWRENCE — On May 4th at St. Paul's, Cheetham Hill, to Dennis, Dennis and Andrew — the gift of a son.

LIMINGTON — On May 4th at Maurice Hospital, Portsmouth, to Maurice, wife of Valerie, a daughter, Lucy Annabelle.

LLOYD-CORLETT — May 4th at Mount Alvernia Hospital, Cheadle, to Elizabeth, wife of Charles — a son, Michael.

Maurice Williams — On April 29th to his wife, Dorothy — a son, Christopher, a daughter, Valerie, and a son, Marcus.

RICHARDSON — On May 2nd to his son, David — a son, Marcus.

RIDGE — On April 27th, Davies Goldstones — Ray, a beautiful baby daughter, Cleo Ann, a sister to Nicholas and Adrian — a daughter.

THOMPSON — On April 28th at the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, to Dennis Griffiths and Declan — a son, a brother, and a daughter.

VERNIER — On 25th April to Joanna (see Lomax) — a son, Patrick Edward.

WATKIN — On 5th May at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, to Linda, and Bruce, a daughter.

WILLIAMS — To Rowena and Clive of Ashdown House, born May 4th to Clive — a son, Frederick, a brother for Emily, Alice and a daughter.

GOLDEN WEDDING — IRVINE O'GRADY — On April 29th at St. Mary's Church, Stanmore, to Durban, Robert Alfred — a son, David, and Winifred, a daughter, Pamela.

ROBINSON — On May 1st to Martin, a son, a brother, and a son, Marcus.

BUILL — On May 2nd 1982 peacefully in the Midlands, to his son, Peter (see Peter), a daughter, Barbara, a son, and a son, Robert, and grandchildren.

ROBINSON — Anner Susan Roland — Mrs. Rainy, Dearly loved wife of Odan and a son, Robert — a son, Susan — unexpectedly and painlessly in his 90th year, at the Hungarian Reformed Church 17 St. Margarets Road, London, on the 2nd May 1982, peacefully in hospital, Kathleen (see Kathleen) — a son, Robert — a son, of Tipton St. John, Devon.

BUHL — On May 2nd 1982 at home in the Midlands, to his son, Peter (see Peter), a daughter, Barbara, a son, and a son, Robert, and grandchildren.

CAMERON — On May 2nd 1982 suddenly at the Royal Free Hospital, to his son, John, and a daughter, Anne, wife of John, and a son, Jennifer — a son, a daughter, and a son, St. Martin's Church, Exning.

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Death penalty vote on Tuesday

By Anthony Bevins,
Political Correspondent

The House of Commons is to be given the opportunity to vote for the return of capital punishment next Tuesday.

It was revealed last night that the Criminal Justice Bill is to be given three days for its report stage, providing the Falklands emergency does not force a rearrangement of parliamentary business, and that capital punishment would be allocated the first full day of debate.

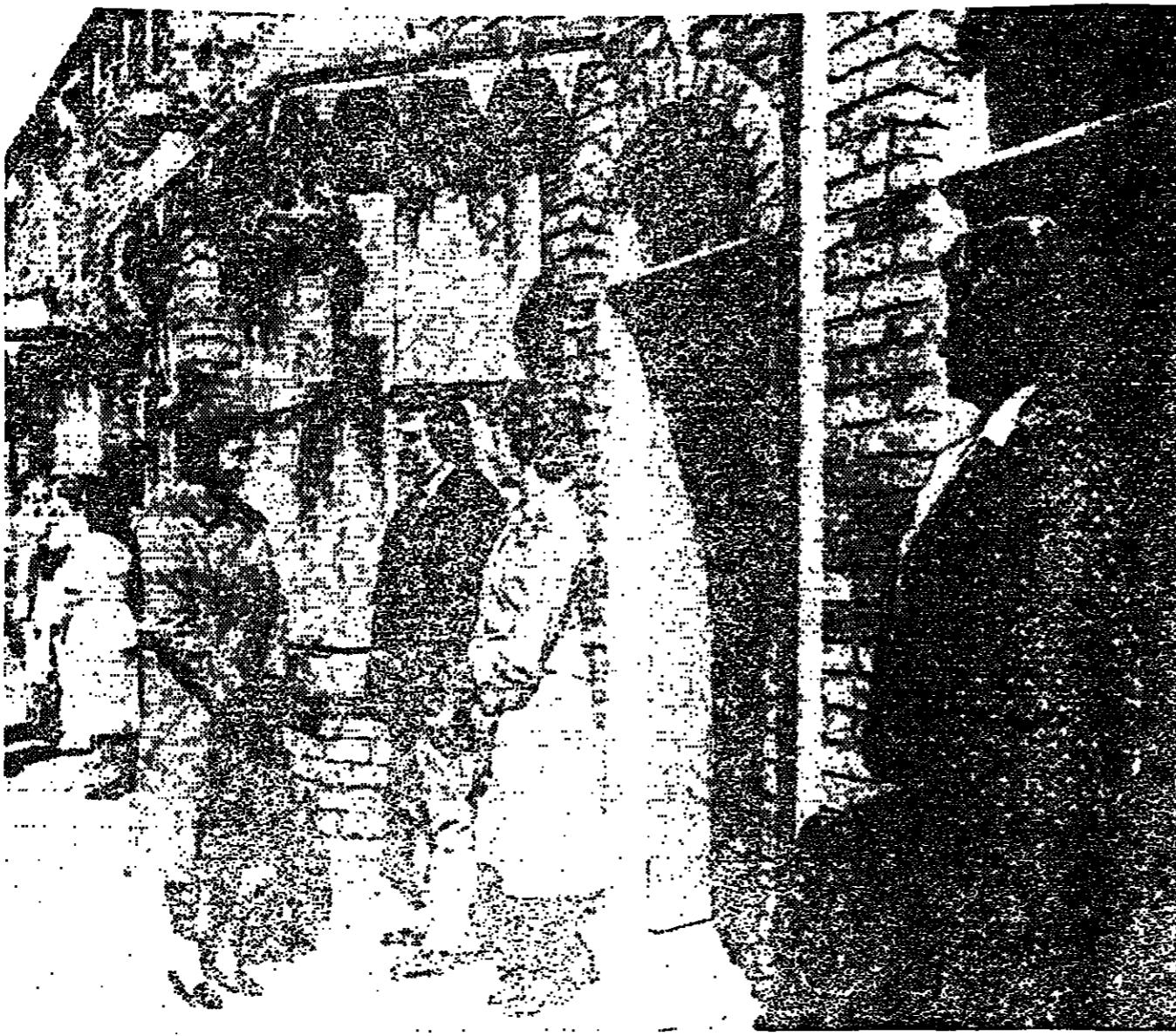
This decision will be announced in the Commons this afternoon.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has already expressed the hope that Mr George Thomas the Speaker will group the four new clauses containing capital punishment options, with four separate divisions to take place at the end of debate, at 10 pm on Tuesday.

Three original new clauses abled by Mr Vivian Bendall, Ilford, North, and Mr Edward Taylor, Southend, East, propose the death penalty for terrorism involving loss of life, for murder of police and prison officers, and for murder committed in the course of robbery and burglary, involving the use of firearms.

Since then a group of senior Conservative backbenchers have tabled a more general new clause, stating: "A person convicted of murder shall be liable to capital punishment."

The last death penalty vote in July, 1979, opposed the punishment by 362 votes to 243.



The Street turns out for the Queen

The new old houses in Coronation Street were decked out in flowers and bunting yesterday for a visit by the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. Being the colourful exterior, however, was a homely concern for Prince Andrew, serving as a helicopter pilot with the Falklands task force.

On all sides the Queen was asked about her son and she told Mr Hugh Lee, the Lord Mayor of Manchester: "It is a very anxious time for us all."

During their visit to the newly-built television set for the Street, the Queen and Prince Philip met the cast's

regulars as, above, are seen chatting to Len and Rita Fairclough (Peter Adamson and Barbara Knox) while Elsie Tanner (Pat Phoenix) looks on.

The new location for the long running TV series in a former railway yard near the

Granada TV centre in Manchester. It was completed only a week ago to replace the former outside set a short distance away which was not regarded as authentic enough. The Queen is reported to be a regular watcher of the series.

Bishops condemn Polish police

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw, May 5

The Polish Roman Catholic Church today strongly criticized the Government's handling of Monday's violent demonstrations in the country and made it clear that it expected substantial concessions before a lasting national agreement could be found.

"The state will be able to fulfil its task only when it enjoys public support — only then will the common building of a jointly drafted programme be able to get under way," the country's bishops declared in a statement issued today.

However, the church leadership showed that it was at least ready to maintain a semblance of dialogue with the martial law authorities and pressed on with a scheduled meeting of the joint consultative government-church council. Church sources said that the meeting was unusually short and to the point. This was reflected in the conciseness of the communiqué which said little more than that both sides had "expressed their concern about the social situation in Poland".

Church sources say that senior clergy have been complaining bitterly about police behaviour on Monday, both towards their parishioners and towards church buildings. Zomo riot police threw tear gas canisters into at least two churches to force out demonstrators claiming sanctuary.

The bishops praised last week's concession made by the Government in terms of easing martial law.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Decency and restraint overcomes the House

A decent restraint was observed by most of the commons when, as I promised when breaking the news to the House late the night before, Mr Nott rose to make a fuller statement about the last hours of HMS Sheffield.

Decent restraint has not come easily to some Members these last four weeks. Some have had difficulty being decent. Others have had difficulty being restrained. Mr Ian Mikardo, the perennial Labour left-winger, for example, is one of those who have not been up to either. During Mr Nott's appearance the night before, some of us had sat in the gallery repelled as he had triumphantly asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether, after the loss of the Sheffield, the Prime Minister "is still inviting us to rejoice, rejoice". He was quoting from Mrs Thatcher's reaction to the blackest retaking of South Georgia. Stuff so vile and crude boded ill for yesterday's exchanges as Chamber and galleries began to fill. Mercifully we heard no more of it. No doubt it will be heard again in due course, but yesterday's darkest enemies.

Mr Nott had little to add. He named the dead Harrier pilot. He put the number of missing at 30. Next of kin were being informed. He said that the thoughts of the whole House were with them. Mrs Thatcher, seated next to his, was as pale as she had been when she sat in the same place, alongside the same Minister, at 11.00 o'clock previous evening. Sometimes her gaze was lowered. Sometimes it scanned the Labour benches, looking with horror for some lurking Mikardo.

Mr Pym, the Foreign Secretary, made a statement about the diplomatic aftermath. He was rather more interested in the United Nations than he had been a few days ago. By the time Mr Pym sat down, the impression was that the men of peace and negotiation were soon going to have their advice put to the test.

Mr Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary, rose. He has been a party politician nearly all his adult life. He knows no other trade. He has continued to practise it over this last month. But he is also a man who can tell when an occasion is inappropriate to his professional skills.

Associating the Labour Opposition with the tributes paid to the lost British servicemen, he said that they "gave their lives in the defence of the principle which is regarded as of great importance by all members of the House".

There was a cheer at this, but rather more from the Tories than from Mr Healey's own party. Admittedly, the shadow Foreign Secretary wandered off into a question to Mr Nott about the relative positions of the Belgrano and the British task force, a question designed to prove some point which Mr Healey had tried to score off Mr Nott the previous day. Mr Healey, being mortal, was not perfect, even on this day.

How HMS Sheffield was hit

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Continued from page 1 aircraft, although this was not certain. That was possibly the reason why the attack was with Exocet missiles. The Sheffield was armed with Sea Dart missiles of the latest kind. These were an air defence weapon and were not very successful against incoming missiles of a particular kind. It was not known why the Sea Dart system did not successfully engage the aircraft but it was possible that it came in very low, under radar cover.

Mr Nott also named the pilot of the Sea Harrier lost in the attack on the airfield at Port Stanley as Lieutenant Nicholas Taylor.

Mr Denis Healey, Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, was cheered by MPs on both sides of the Commons when, in paying tribute to the courage of the Harrier pilot and the crew of the Sheffield, he said they had given their lives in the defence of a principle that was regarded as of great importance by all members of the House.

There was no further news of either the casualties or the survivors of HMS Sheffield and little enough of the ship itself except that she was still afloat.

Another attraction of Peruvian involvement in finding a

Britain favours Peruvian initiative

Continued from page 1

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said last night that they were aware of but would not confirm reports that the main Argentine fleet was outside the 200 mile Military Exclusion Zone and heading back towards Argentina, but that two Argentine submarines remained inside the zone.

There was no further news of either the casualties or the survivors of HMS Sheffield and little enough of the ship itself except that she was still afloat.

But Argentine sources say Mr Haig is regarded in

diplomatic solution is the warm relations which exist between Lima and Buenos Aires. This could mean that a solution put forward by Peru would be more palatable to the Argentines than one proposed by the Americans who are now openly siding with the British.

The British regard Mr Haig's role in any settlement effort as being absolutely essential. "We favour the Peruvian initiative because they are working very closely with Mr Haig," one British diplomat said today.

But Argentine sources say

Buenos Aires as totally discredited since the United States sided with Britain. However, they say Argentina is beginning to have second thoughts about President Belaunde Terry's peace initiative.

Fans mourn

Portsmouth and Exeter City fans stood in silence for one minute before their Third Division football match, in tribute to the sailors who died aboard HMS Sheffield, which was based in Portsmouth.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh attends Game Conservation International Convention, Churchill Hotel, Portman Square, W1, 9.15; as Admiral of the Royal Naval Sailing Association, presents prizes for White Rose Trophy, held at the Royal Yacht Squadron, E.C.1, 5.30; later as Senior Fellow, Fellowship of Engineers, attends New Fellows Dinner, Apothecaries Hall, Black Friars Lane, EC4, 7.45.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother visits exhibitions mark-

ing centenary of Royal Cambrian Academy of Art at Conway and Llandudno, N Wales, 12.30.

Princess Margaret visits Becton Dickinson factory, Plymouth, 10.30.

The Duke of Gloucester opens Chester-le-Street Civic Centre, co-Durham, 11.40; opens Royal Mail House, Darlington, 3.

The Duchess of Gloucester attends London Suzuki Group School Appeal Concert, St James's Palace, 7.25.

Watercolours, oil paintings and sculpture by the artists of the Hatfield Road Group, City Museum and Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5 until May 15.

Leaves Never Grow on Trees, four prints from Max Ernst's *Naturel*, Bellingham Art Gallery, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 until May 22.

Late Sicker paintings, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 until May 22.

Stamps, covers and photographs depicting sailing training ships of the world, Maritime Museum, The Quay, Exeter, daily 10 to 5 until December 31; Concert, Judie Tuke, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

Objects Human Scale: contemporary Australian jewelry and ceramics, City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 until May 15.

Replica Town of Pompeii, Chapter House, Gloucester Cathedral, Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30, Sun 1 to 5; late opening Wed 6.45 to 8.30 until June 25.

Paintings by Sam Herman, Bridge Street Gallery, 7a Bridge Street, Buxton, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 until May 22.

Saints by Rosa Seldon, Falmouth Art Gallery, The Moor, Falmouth; Mon to Fri 10 to 1 and 2 to 4 until May 21.

Images of Reality: photographs tracing the background of the Blackfoot Nation, Captain Cook Museum, 10a St Peter's Street, Stewart Park, Merton, Middlebrough, 10 to 4, until May 21.

Talks, lectures

Why does the horn point backwards? — lecture/recital in aid of Bournemouth Orchestra Appeal Fund, by Christopher John James Crump, Arts Centre, Weymouth, 7.30.

The Revolutionary Requirement of Christianity Today, by Lord Soper, Great Hall, Magee University College, Londonderry, N Ireland, 8.

Music

Concert by London Mozart Players, Colston Hall, Colston Street, Bristol, 7.30.

Recital by Deborah Dales (soprano) and Diana Stewart (cello), United Reform Church, Hallgate, Doncaster, 7.30.

Red Leader gets bad mark accepting money (6).

ARP's order in file (4).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,824

4 Of all the holes, of course, bar this (10).

5 Eyed pointed rocks (7).

6 Huts rebuilt in this way (4).

7 Richardson's Sir Charles without one descendant (8).

8 Tools writing up new net valuation (10).

12 Guy may be one without substantial means (3, 2, 5).

14 Very sad to see the foreign people on board (10).

16 He went into the politicians' speculations (8).

18 Formerly allowable round pitchhead, that's clear (8).

19 Coast port for instance (7).

20 Red leader gets bad mark accepting money (6).

24 ARP's order in file (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,823

1 Holder of catch in Test, perhaps, at close of play (7-3).

9 Time one's to meet the beautiful women (6).

10 Established church in French region (8).

12 Laurel held by Bones completing this in the race (8).

13 She sounds rather like a complaining sort (4).

14 A sight better with these — e.g. without the old girls (10).

15 Driving too low, but scoring, perhaps (7).

17 — of fishy form and mind' (Brooke) (7).

20 Ere un harcot vert (6, 4).

21 Ended some courtship — a strange one? (4).

23 Hull of a rough chap, it appears to us (8).

25 What an idiot to be caught in eight furlongs (8).

26 Improves when midday comes? (6).

27 Shining tense batting by grim opener (10).

DOWN

2 Spanish course in banking — dry (6).

3 Article in advent rewritten by the old poet (8).

New books — fiction

This is a personal selection of important, interesting, noteworthy, or enigmatic novels just published, arranged alphabetically rather than in any order of merit or preference:

A Chain of Voices, by Andre Brink (Faber, £7.95)

A Standard of Behaviour, by William Trevor (Abacus, £1.95)

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, by Anita Loos (Picador, £2.95)

Heartsbeats, or *The Germans are Dying Out*, by Gunter Grass (Secker & Warburg, £6.95)

Madame Bovary, by Jane Gilkespie (Hale, £7.25)

Midnight's Last Madness, by Sean O'Faolain (Penguin, £2.95)

Of Mortal Love, by William Gerhardie (Penguin, £2.95)

Returning, by Edna O'Brien (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £6.50)

Thanksgiving, by Terry Coleman (Hutchinson, £7.95)

The House of Cards, by Leon Garfield (The Bodley Head, £7.50)

The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman, by Angela Carter (King Penguin, £2.25)

The Voyage of the Destiny, by Robert Nye (Hamish Hamilton, £6.50)

PH

National Stamp Day

The papers

Calling for an immediate ceasefire and suggesting a United Nations trusteeship is the main theme of the first issue of the £1.00 of the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp.